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DECEMBER 1993

YOUNG SUPERSTARS

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GIGGS
BERGKAMP
MIURA
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MARTINS
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EDMUNDO

FEYENOORD ROTTERDAM

CLUB FOCUS
FEYENOORD

INTERNATIONAL ANALYSIS
SWITZERLAND

Latest international results, line-ups and tables

WorldCup USA94

COUNTDOWN TO
'Super Wednesday'

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Julio SALINAS

Julio Salinas, not a regular in the Barcelona team, but scorer of five goals in Spain's last two World Cup matches.

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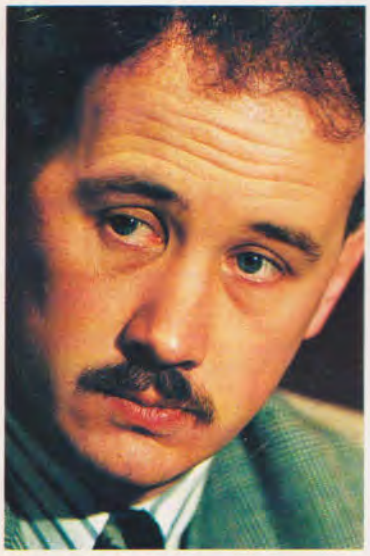

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WIN A SEASON TICKET PAGE 9

WorldCup
USA**94**

WORLD CUP
ROUND-UP BY
KEIR RADNEDGE

Argentina's Maradona takes on the Australian defence in Sydney.

What a party for those who

THE 1994 World Cup finals in the United States could signal a new era in world football when the dust settles after the climactic events of Super Wednesday, November 17.

Only six nations have ever won the World Cup. One — Uruguay — are already out. Three more former holders — Italy, England and Argentina — could be eliminated if results on November 17 go the wrong way. That, remarkably, would mean that only defending title-holders Germany and triple champions Brazil would represent world football's establishment when the 1994 finals begin in Chicago next June 17.

It might not come to that. Argentina believe they can defeat Australia when the return leg of their South America/Oceania play-off is staged in the Velez Sarsfield stadium in Buenos Aires.

The teams drew 1-1 in an entertaining first leg in Sydney, Abel Balbo opening the score for Argentina and Aurelio Vidmar snapping up a quick equaliser for the Socceroos. But all is not sweetness and light in the Argentinian camp.

Coach Alfio Basile's job is on the line and a number of his players were irritated by his decision to nominate the returning, ever-controversial Diego Maradona as captain in Sydney. They want veteran defender Oscar Ruggeri, clear of suspension, handed back the captain's armband.

Australia had their own problems. Goalkeeper Mark Bosnich reneged on his international retirement so he could play against Maradona, which hardly spoke volumes for team spirit or unity in the Aussie camp.

These suspicions were confirmed when veteran striker Dave Mitchell, upset at being used only for the last 17 minutes of the match, declared his own international retirement — suggesting that, after a draw at home, he considered the trip to Buenos Aires a waste of time.

ALREADY THROUGH	STILL HOPING
USA *(hosts)*	Italy
Germany *(holders)*	Switzerland
Mexico	Holland
	England
Greece	
Russia	Rep of Ireland
Norway	Denmark
Sweden	Spain
Bolivia	Belgium
Brazil	Romania
Colombia	Czechoslovakia
	Wales
Cameroon	
Morocco	France
Nigeria	Bulgaria
Saudi Arabia	Argentina
South Korea	Australia

Saudi Arabia and South Korea had secured the two Asian places on offer in the finals after a high-profile, superbly dramatic, mini-league play-off series in Qatar.

Football's unique ability to bridge political and cultural gaps never has been more in evidence than in this round-robin series which matched Japan against the Koreas, North and South Korea against each other and, of course, Iraq against everybody and Iran in particular.

The "Mother of all football matches" finished in a 2-1 victory for Iraq (left). But their most important strike was not in this game but on the dramatic final day when a last-minute equaliser for a 2-2 draw prevented the Japanese qualifying for the finals for the first time — a huge blow to the multi-million campaign being waged by the JFA to match achievements on the soccer pitch to those in the fields of international business.

South Korea thus qualified for their third successive finals, a depressing prospect remembering their negative, uninspired approach to Italia '90. Perhaps in the US, with more experience and greater confidence born of events in Qatar, the South Koreans will step up a class.

Saudi Arabia sealed their first trip to the World Cup finals thanks to their 4-2 victory over Iran on the last day. Their qualification is a long-overdue reward for the royal family and government's financial investment in soccer.

Their qualification was not without controversy after their Brazilian coach, Jose Candido, was dismissed halfway through the tournament for rejecting an order from one of the royal princes on the Federation board that he substitute the goalkeeper who conceded a first-minute goal against Iraq.

Europe is likely to produce similar dramatics.

Group One holds out the ironic prospect of at least one English manager making it to the finals, Roy Hodgson of Switzerland.

The Swiss have not appeared in the World Cup finals since their ill-fated adventure in England in 1966. They have waited a long time to wipe away memories of a campaign which began amid controversy — two star players were suspended for staying out beyond curfew — and the morale-shattering experience of a 5-0 thrashing by West Germany.

Much has changed over the years. Swiss football officials regularly reorganise their league competition to try to lure back the fans. But nothing would work as effectively as reaching the World Cup finals.

Norway and Greece also have demonstrated what teamwork, confidence and opportunism can achieve and Swiss stars such as Borussia Dortmund striker Stephane Chapuisat do not intend to be left behind.

Injuries have not made life easy for Italian manager Arrigo Sacchi. Only after Roberto Baggio inspired the recent 3-0 victory over Scotland did Italy hit the front of the qualifying group for the first time. Qualification for US '94 would go a long way towards dispelling the doubts which have hung over Sacchi since he left Milan for the Azzurri.

Group Two, of course, rests now on Holland taking a point from Poland or, if they lose, on how many goals England run up against San Marino.

Group Three is equally tight. A three-

way contest features the Irish Republic, slow-starting European champions Denmark and erratic Spain.

Spain play host to Denmark while the Irish Republic visit Northern Ireland where they have yet to win or score a goal. If Denmark win, they qualify; if Spain win, they qualify; if Denmark and Spain draw, then Denmark qualify . . . and whether Spain qualify depends on the Irish derby. Anything less than a win and Jack Charlton can spend next June huntin', shootin' and fishin'.

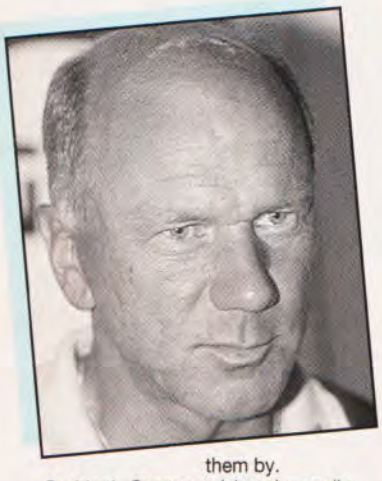
Group Four could all be decided on goal difference. Belgium, Romania, Wales and Czechoslovakia are so finely balanced that all four nations could end up level on 14 points. As far as Wales are concerned, the challenge is simple: they must beat unpredictable Romania at Cardiff Arms Park . . . and hope that Czechoslovakia do NOT win in Belgium.

Group Five is all settled with Greece and Russia already sorting out flight

survive!

and hotel reservations. That leaves Group Six as the remaining open door with one place already settled, to everyone's surprise.

On the night of October 13 Swedish manager Tommy Svensson returned to his hotel room a gloomy man. Sweden had beaten Finland but had struggled to win 3-2 and World Cup qualifying was threatening to pass



them by.

Suddenly Svensson (above) was disturbed by the sounds of his players celebrating in the hall outside: France's shock 3-2 home defeat by Israel meant that Sweden, to their own surprise, had qualified for the finals already!

France will join them if they take a point off Bulgaria in Paris. Jean-Pierre Papin and Co are unlikely to slip up again — even if Manchester United's temperamental Eric Cantona carries out his threat to boycott the game in protest at the French fans' lack of support in the defeat by Israel.

US '94 will be quite a party . . . for some!

● *Full World Cup results & tables on p58-59*

Finance flows in for fine fields

Bayern's Scholl stops Norwich's Fox during their UEFA Cup clash in Munich.

EUROPEAN CUP revolution is just around the corner. As the eight Champions League contenders prepare to feast on the financial delights of overcoming the first two rounds, so UEFA are about to announce an expansion of the format.

The old 32-club entry is no longer wide enough to cope with all the new nations streaming in from the fragmentation of the former Soviet Union and what was Yugoslavia — plus the impending formal acceptance of Israel into full membership of UEFA.

Then there is the relentless pressure of the big clubs, such as Milan, Real Madrid, Inter, Barcelona and Bayern Munich, to provide a competitive super-league commensurate with their commercial ambitions.

A UEFA study group has been considering the road into the next century ever since president Lennart Johansson's initial proposals for a merger of Champions Cup and UEFA Cup were rejected last spring. In December UEFA's executive will consider the options and proposals and set a course for the future.

The Champions League has proved such a success in financial and televisual terms that it is likely to be expanded from two groups of four clubs to four groups of four clubs.

This could follow an expansion of entry into the Champions Cup achieved by allowing the leading nations to enter both their champions and runners-up. The identity of those "leading nations" would be resolved through use of the UEFA coefficient — the system which counts back results at national team and European club level over the past five years.

Proponents of a massive European superleague played all the way through from August to May are likely to be disappointed. Climatic and cultural complications mean only six full months in the year are available for use — September, October, November and March, April and May.

Meanwhile, the Champions League — with single-match semi-finals appended this time around — welcomes back Milan (comfortable second-round victors over FC Cobenhagen) and FC Porto (surprise winners against Feyenoord) plus Monaco, Moscow Spartak, Anderlecht, Werder Bremen, Barcelona and . . . Galatasaray.

The Turks provided the shock of the second round by defeating England's over-confident disappointments from Manchester United on the away goals rule. United striker Eric Cantona was shown the red card after the final whistle of the goalless second leg in Istanbul for allowing his personal frustration to boil over into face-to-face abuse of Swiss ref Kurt Rothlisberger.

The Frenchman had infuriated the crowd in the 77th minute, when he chased the ball into the sidelines and appeared to swing a kick at Galatasaray substitute Bologlu Nezihi. Later Cantona and United skipper Bryan Robson were both injured in a tangle with riot police in the players' tunnel.

Bremen became the first German club to advance to the Champions League by beating Levski Sofia 1-0 at home for a 3-2 aggregate victory. The only goal was scored by Mario Basler in the 75th minute, by which time Levski were down to 10 men following the expulsion of Gocho Ginchev.

Coach Otto Rehhagel said: "We were a little nervous because so much depended on the outcome. But now we're delighted at one of the biggest moments in our club's history."

Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov scored both goals as Barcelona beat FK Austria 2-1 in Vienna for a 5-1 aggregate, while Milan's 6-0 first leg win against FC Copenhagen meant only 6,000 fans turned out to see the second leg in the Stadio Meazza. Milan won again, this time by 1-0 with a goal from Jean-Pierre Papin. He is not the only Frenchman through. So are Marseille's stand-ins Monaco, who beat Steaua Bucharest 4-1 at home and lost only 1-0 away.

In the Cup-winners Cup, title-holders Parma beat Maccabi Haifa of Israel only on a penalty shoot-out to join the best quarter-final field for many years — complete with Ajax Amsterdam, Real Madrid, Benfica and an Arsenal side who humiliated Standard Liege, winning 3-0 at home and 7-0 away.

In the UEFA Cup, 1991 champions Internazionale squeaked through 4-3 on aggregate against Apollon of Cyprus while Bayern Munich failed to recover from the shock of a 2-1 first-leg defeat at home by Norwich City. Manager Mike Walker said: "This is the biggest night in the club's history, from the chairman to the tea lady."

Biggest night, too, for Germany's Karlsruhe. After ousting PSV Eindhoven in the first round of the UEFA Cup they earned headlines in the second by thrashing Spanish League leaders Valencia 7-0, and 8-3 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CLUB DRAWS

CHAMPIONS CUP
Champions League

Group A: Barcelona, Galatasaray, Monaco, Moscow Spartak.
Nov 24: Monaco v Moscow Spartak, Galatasaray v Barcelona.
Dec 12: Barcelona v Monaco, Moscow Spartak v Galatasaray.
Mar 2: Moscow Spartak v Barcelona, Monaco v Galatasaray.
Mar 16: Barcelona v Moscow Spartak, Galatasaray v Monaco.
Mar 30: Moscow Spartak v Monaco, Barcelona v Galatasaray.
Apr 13: Monaco v Barcelona, Galatasaray v Moscow Spartak.

Group B: Anderlecht, Milan, Porto, Werder Bremen.
Nov 24: Anderlecht v Milan, Porto v Werder Bremen.
Dec 12: Werder Bremen v Anderlecht, Milan v Porto.
Mar 2: Milan v Werder Bremen, Anderlecht v Porto.
Mar 16: Werder Bremen v Milan, Porto v Anderlecht.
Mar 30: Milan v Anderlecht, Werder Bremen v Porto.
Apr 13: Anderlecht v Werder Bremen, Porto v Milan.

Semi-finals
Apr 27:
Winners Gp A v Runners-up Gp B
Winners Gp B v Runners-up Gp A

Final
May 18: Semi-final winners.

CUP-WINNERS CUP
Quarter-finals
Ajax v Parma
Torino v Arsenal
Benfica v Bayer Leverkusen
Real Madrid v Paris SG
1st leg: March 2, 2nd leg: March 16

UEFA CUP
3rd round
Sporting Lisbon v Austria Salzburg
Eintracht Frankfurt v La Coruna
Brondby v Borussia Dortmund
Bordeaux v Karlsruhe
Cagliari v Mechelen
Norwich City v Internazionale
Boavista v OFI Crete
Juventus v Tenerife
1st leg: Nov 24, 2nd leg: Dec 8

● ***European second round results on page 62***

Commentary

Keir Radnedge

Talking back to unhappiness

HOLLAND'S great players have a remarkable ability for scoring own goals. Not on the pitch as much as off it.

Johan Cruyff talked referees to irritated distraction in the 1970s; just ask England's Jack Taylor, who refereed the 1974 World Cup with Cruyff chuntering away until, on their departure for the dressing rooms at half-time, he booked the Dutch captain. In 1978 Cruyff actually talked his way out of Holland's World Cup squad for reasons which have forever remained obscure.

Holland's finest footballers, over the years, have talked an even better game than they have played. For instance, their moaning and griping provoked the Dutch Federation into dismissing Thys Libregts as coach once qualification for the 1990 World Cup finals had been achieved.

Leo Beenhakker's installation in his place was greeted with still more grumblings. Even Rinus Michels, object of a love-hate relationship with his players over the years, was the subject of criticism when, after Beenhakker's departure, he took up the reins again himself.

Whoever is the manager of Holland, you can bet the star will complain. Maybe a fraction better team spirit would have helped turn luck in Holland's favour on occasions such as the European Championship semi-final defeat on penalties by Denmark.

Ruud Gullit, of all people, is at it now. The older he grows, the more petulant he appears to become. That's a shame because I have huge regard for Gullit the man and for his achievements on the pitch, especially in the heydays with Milan and Holland in the late 1980s. But it seems that the longer a player continues, the shorter grows his sense of perspective.

When Gullit hobbled out of Holland's 2-2 draw against England at Wembley towards the back end of last season he made little secret of his intention to withdraw from the Dutch national team.

He did not like tactics which demanded that he do some running back down his right wing to help support midfield and defence. Presumably he wanted manager Advocaat to turn the clock back to the European title-winning year of 1988, when Gullit played in a fixed attacking position wide to the right of centre-forward Marco Van Basten. But few teams now can afford to carry more than one static attacker.

So Holland faced the climactic stage of the World Cup qualifying challenge with team spirit in more than their usual shreds and Gullit a contributory factor. Then, magic! Holland climbed the toughest mountain, beating England 2-0 in Rotterdam. Suddenly the road to US' 94, which had appeared shrouded in the mists of gloomy self-doubt, lay clear and free at their feet.

So, do we find Gullit celebrating the strength of purpose and morale of his former team-mates and sending them his best wishes for a glorious trip out West? Indeed not. Now the hard work against all the odds has been accomplished without him, Gullit tells one of Europe's biggest mass-circulation sports newspapers, Italy's *Gazzetta dello Sport*, that he is ready, willing and eager to make a comeback for Holland once Barcelona boss Johan Cruyff — as agreed — takes up the long-promised part-time managerial appointment for the trip to the finals next June.

Gullit, temporarily revitalised by the summer transfer from Milan to Sampdoria, says: "It would be ideal to end my international career at the World Cup finals in America.

"People say I'm bubbling and appear fitter than ever. It's no surprise to me. I've been bubbling for a while but what chance did I have of proving it with all the pressure on foreigners to fight for their places at Milan last season?

"At Sampdoria now I have peace of mind. I can play the way I like. I must not fight for a place in the team. This has improved my form and my morale."

The Mediterranean sea air may have put new life into Gullit. If he expects expressions of similar delight from his erstwhile Holland team-mates he may be in for a nasty surprise.

Once more, Holland appear to be talking themselves into a World Cup cul-de-sac.

Bubbling . . . Ruud Gullit wants an international recall.

CHRISTMAS comes but once a year . . . and so does the annual *WORLD SOCCER* World Player of the Year poll.

So, if you haven't already voted, get your nominations in the post as soon as possible in the three categories: World Player, World Team and World Manager.

Vote note

Send your entries *(on a postcard)* to: Player of the Year, *WORLD SOCCER*, 25th floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

WANTED: NATIONAL MANAGER

no previous experience necessary

GRAHAM TAYLOR will not be England manager this time next year whether or not his team — and Poland — manage to turn up a miracle in San Marino.

His England stewardship has not worked out as either he or the domestic game hoped. Recriminations are easy. To err is human and we have had no shortage of comment about where Taylor is considered to have erred, either in tactics or team selection. It's all history. Or it soon will be.

So where do England go from here? Again, no shortage of suggestions for men or magical new formulae.

The purveyors of new personnel recommend Newcastle's Kevin Keegan ("name" quality), Leeds' Howard Wilkinson (long service as part-time England aide and bearing a university degree), Aston Villa's Ron Atkinson (because he talks the subject so well on TV), Steve Coppell (hailed for his sense of honour in resigning at Crystal Palace after relegation), Gerry Francis, Mike Walker and Glenn Hoddle (because QPR, Norwich and Chelsea play attractive football), George Graham (because he's Scottish and what a good story that would be!) and Trevor Francis (because he knows all about these dastardly foreigners who have a habit of beating England at crunch time).

Then there are the new formulae. One is the Irish formula as personified by Jack Charlton (above): develop a simple system which serves as a lowest common denominator for the players available and then spend the time between internationals away from it all, huntin', shootin' and fishin'. But managing Ireland, for whom each victory is its own triumph, is very different from managing England, for whom each match is burdened with enormous expectation.

The second system being espoused by the world and his wife is the "German" concept. This is all about continuity. A manager is appointed together with a squad of clones all the way down the national team system, from seniors to under-21s to youths of all ages and sizes. So who is sought out to speak up for the proven success of the theory? Franz Beckenbauer, no less . . . who happens to be the wrong man.

All German national managers, back to Sepp Herberger in the 1930s, have risen through the coaching ranks of the DFB and stepped up from an assistant's role. That's how Herberger succeeded Otto Nerz; that's how Helmut Schoen followed Herberger; that's how Jupp Derwall took over after Schoen; that's . . . not how Beckenbauer was appointed. He was brought in from outside precisely because he was NOT a product of the system. DFB president Hermann Neuberger felt new thinking was needed, a figurehead manager to act as a lightning conductor on which to refocus pride in the national team.

Ultimately, Neuberger was vindicated with victory in the 1990 World Cup. But Beckenbauer was hugely fortunate not to be out on his ear after the Mexico finals in 1986. The German squad was massively divided between the petulant stars of Bayern Munich and Koln. Team spirit was virtually non-existent and Beckenbauer was powerless to do anything about it. The Germans reached the Final without ever playing well and without ever setting the finals alight.

Who can remember some of the stars against Argentina in the Azteca? Bernd Forster? Norbert Eder? That they almost consummated a remarkable recovery says more about the failings of Argentina as champions.

In Italy four years later, Beckenbauer (right) was triumphant at the apex of a management pyramid supported by "system men" such as Berti Vogts and Holger Osieck. But the German system is much, much more than a handful of coaches at the peak of the professional game. The German system is all about a coaching concept which descends right down through professional, part-time and amateur levels to the lowest echelons of German football.

The Football Association may try to copy the public tip of the iceberg. But the very structure of sports education in England, founded as it is on schools recreation, cannot be converted. Negative as it may seem, it looks like best-man-for-the-job time again. Only this time, hopefully, one who has got the club intensity out of his psyche.

In their day, Alf Ramsey, Don Revie, Bobby Robson and Graham Taylor were all the obvious "safe" men for the job (accepting that rogue elephants such as Brian Clough never stood a chance with the FA establishment).

But all of them had proved their apparent suitability in the blinkered world of club management. Robson and Taylor have both acknowledged the time and difficulty it took coming to terms with the demands of the England management.

As Robson once told me: "When you manage a club and you get beat it's only a couple of days to the next match and you can turn everything round. With England, if you lose, you carry the weight of that defeat for a month, sometimes two months or three. It's a different kind of pressure and nothing in the club game really prepares you for it."

Just one of England's managers had been through the club experience and emerged the other side, relaxed enough to take the broader view: Ron Greenwood.

That is the sort of manager England need now. But men such as that are hard to find. Or, indeed, like Greenwood himself, are well into retirement. Not a happy thought.

Tapie calls time on OM

AT LAST, Bernard Tapie has seen the light. After months of fighting every corner of authority known to the football man — the judiciary, the fraud squad, FIFA, UEFA, the French Federation and every gossip-monger from here to Eternite, he has seen the light: while he remains at the helm of Olympique Marseille, the Establishment will do everything, at every opportunity, to grind the club into the dust.

More than one way of skinning a cat.

The French League president, Noel Le Graet, was appointed with a brief to clean up the French game. That should have meant going head-to-head with Tapie. But that option did not appeal to Le Graet. Hardly surprisingly. Tapie, the contradictory millionaire socialist asset-stripper, is like one of the chess grand masters who can play two dozen games at once and win them all.

He seemed to have achieved just that when Marseille beat Milan in Munich last May to win the Champions Cup.

Yet that very night the seeds of disaster were evident. The talk behind the scenes of celebration in Munich's Olympic Stadion that evening were not of Marseille's triumph but of the revelations that Valenciennes players had been bribed to throw a league match against Marseille a week earlier.

Throughout Tapie's reign at Marseille whispers have abounded of behind-the-scenes machinations ensuring Marseille's dominance of French football. Now, at last, the evidence was available through Jacques Glassmann, the Valenciennes defender who told his directors and the police all about the incriminating phone calls from Marseille player Jean-Jacques Eydelie and general manager Jean-Pierre Bernes.

Despite a flood of innuendo and unsubstantiated allegations, no mud ever quite stuck to Tapie. But once the French Federation had been galvanised into punitive action, it became clear that he was the target. Every blow at the club — the Champions Cup bar, the extended international ban, the stripping away of the French title and the ordering of a financial commission of inquiry into the club — was an indirect blow at Tapie.

Now, at last, he says he will quit as president before the season ends. His excuse is his political ambition in local and national government. Football's loss will be politics' gain. Or should it be, football's gain will be politics' loss?

OM, at least, should breathe a sigh of corporate relief. The pressure is not yet off. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. Tapie has seen it too, in his own way.

Quitting . . . Bernard Tapie says he is resigning as Marseille president.

Faustino Asprilla . . . rising star of Parma and Colombia.

WORLD CUP '94 is rapidly drawing closer. In Europe, the Champions Cup is at the mini-league stage, and similar excitement is building in the Cup-winners Cup and UEFA Cup. In South America, preparations for next year's lengthy list of competitions are well under way. In Asia, football is growing as never before, especially in Japan, where the new J.League has exceeded expectations and plans are well advanced fora viable bid to stage the 2002 World Cup.

Despite many tribulations, soccer as a global game continues to occupy a unique place in the public conciousness. So who are the young players who will lead the game through the next few tempestuous years?

Some of *WORLD SOCCER'S* correspondents around the globe, from Rio to Rome, have been finding out.

The new Generati

FAUSTINO
ASPRILLA
PARMA AND COLOMBIA

A script-writer's dream

A PROFESSIONAL script writer could hardly hype it more.

Take a coloured Latin American footballer from a traditionally poor and developing country; make him a technically gifted player and goalscorer; describe him as a man who makes headlines because of his allegedly exuberant lifestyle; portray him storming out of a World Cup training camp in a wounded huff; round the portrait off with his distinctive trademark, the cartwheel of delight that he performs to celebrate his goals: the screenplay seems perfect.

The player who fits the above description, of course, is 23-year-old Faustino Asprilla of Colombia and Parma.

In recent weeks, Asprilla has made headlines on both sides of the Atlantic, featuring in Colombia's historic World Cup qualification at Argentina's expense, and scoring important goals for Parma during their bright start in Italy.

Asprilla is outrageously gifted, controversial and highly unpredictable and seems set for a career that will delight not only soccer fans but also a soccer media in search of "larger-than-life" figures around whom it can create myths.

Even before Asprilla arrived in Italy 15 months ago, the media machine had gone to work, alleging that his Colombian club side, Nacional, had given the go-ahead for his $4.5 million transfer only after consultation with a drugs cartel baron, Pablo Escobar, allegedly an influence at Nacional.The club denied the allegations, but the slur stuck.

Reports concerning his transfer might have been exaggerated, but favourable reports about his ability proved more than well founded. Within weeks of his arrival at Parma, such had been the "Asprilla effect" that Brazilian national goalkeeper Claudo Taffarel found himself in the grandstand.

In order to make available one of the three foreign players places allowed per side, Parma coach Nevio Scala preferred to bring in reserve goalkeeper Marco Ballotta, thus fielding Asprilla along with his two confirmed foreigners, Tomas Brolin and Georges Grun.

Asprilla gradually settled himself into the team, confirming his definitive arrival in the Italian big-time by scoring the goal by which Parma ended Milan's 68-match, 21-month long unbeaten league run, when defeating them 1-0 at the San Siro in March.

At this point, however, Parma began to see something of the other side of Asprilla. Around Easter, he went home to Colombia for a family break only to become involved in a mysterious incident in which he suffered a gashed leg.

The Colombian media maintained that he had kicked in the window of a bus during a rowdy night out, while the player said that he had cut his leg on a broken bottle beside a swimming pool.

Fact or just a good story, it mattered little because the cut cost him his place in Parma's Cup-winners Cup Final winning side at Wembley last May.

If there was an element of mystery about the leg-gash incident, there was no mystery about Asprilla's next claim to controversial fame. He stormed out of the squad training camp last August during the World Cup campaign, returning a few days later, after a stormy altercation with a fan photographer at Bogota airport.

The rest, of course, is recent soccer history. Having played well in the Copa America, Colombia finally delivered on the promise of their immense potential by winning their World Cup group, rounding off their campaign with a 5-0 trouncing of Argentina in Buenos Aires.

Asprilla was widely assessed as a key figure, scoring two goals. Ten days later he was back in European action, turning a 1-0 Parma away defeat to the little-known Swedish side Degerfors into a 2-1 triumph with two brilliant goals in a Cup-winners Cup tie.

So, how good is he? Parma coach Scala has no doubts: "If he listens and does what I tell him to do, he can be one of the real greats."

Parmalat, the dairy products group who own Parma soccer club, agree with Scala, believing that Asprilla can become a useful promotional vehicle at next summer's World Cup in the US.

Parma president Giorgio Pedraneschi says: "We have agreed an advertising contract with him [at US '94]. We chose him because we think he can be the number one at the World Cup.

"As for Parma, he can take us where Maradona took Napoli — to the title".

The Asprilla script reads better and better.

BY PADDY AGNEW

on

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ap

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DENNIS BERGKAMP

INTERNAZIONALE AND HOLLAND

Natural successor to a great line

DENNIS BERGKAMP is the new superstar of Dutch football. He, according to his admirers, is the natural successor in a long line of great players stretching down from Abe Leenstra before World War II, Faas Wilkes in the 1950s, Coen Moulijn in the 1960s, Johan Cruyff in the 1970s, then Marco Van Basten and Ruud Gullit in the 1980s.

Not that Van Basten and Gullit have disappeared from the scene. But their greatest days now lie behind them; two great players whose achievements are already enshrined in the history of the international game and whose careers have been battered by injury.

Bergkamp is their successor in many ways. Like Cruyff and Van Basten he was brought up through the youth sections of Ajax; like Cruyff and Van Basten he was a teenage golden boy; like Cruyff and Van Basten, it was not long before the lucrative offers from Latin Europe began to rain in and make his departure inevitable. In Cruyff's case that departure was to Barcelona for £992,000 in 1973; in Van Basten's case it was to Milan for £1.5million in 1987; in Bergkamp's case it was to Internazionale of Milan this past summer for £8million.

The comparative sums express transfer market inflation. They also demonstrate quite how highly Bergakmp's potential is considered.

Cruyff had a role to play. In the mid-1980s, finally having retired from playing after a glorious if controversial career with Ajax, Barcelona, Los Angeles Aztecs, Levante (Spain), Ajax again and then Feyenoord, Cruyff turned to management.

He hardly needed the money. But he needed football. He lacked the formal qualifications necessary for a coach's appointment in Holland but Ajax circumvented the rules and regulations by making him "technical director". In that role Cruyff joined in training, selected the team, dictated the style and tactics and sought to rejuvenate the Ajax squad.

Not for Cruyff the fear of promoting the club's young talent. Thus, in March 1987, he plucked Bergkamp from youth team obscurity and named him in the squad to travel to Sweden to play Malmo in the Cup-winners Cup. One complication: the day before the game Bergkamp had an important examination at school. So Cruyff let him travel a day later before rewarding Bergkamp with a 21-minute run-out as substitute in the second half.

He was, at that time, a left-side striker though it was on the right that he had made his league debut against Roda on December 14, 1986, when he was still only 17 years six months and 26 days old.

That first season Bergkamp ended his football term with two goals in 14 league appearances and with a medal from the Cup-winners Cup in which he appeared again as a second- half substitute for Rob

CORENTIN MARTINS

AUXERRE AND FRANCE

Coco, flavour of the month

THE FACT that the garcon-wonder of French football is actually 24 might constitute significant comment on the way youngsters are allowed to develop their talents at top level.

But in the past year Corentin Martins has burst on to the international scene and his skipper in the French national team, Jean-Pierre Papin, has been impressed enough to predict a future for the Auxerre midfielder at Milan. The unusual Breton Christian name and Portuguese surname sum up the background.

Corentin was born on July 11, 1969, two years after his parents had left Portugal to look for construction work in Brest, where they set up home in the Bellevue district.

He was registered as a Portuguese citizen, opted to apply for dual nationality when he was 18, and could have been on World Cup duty in Italy wearing the Portuguese shirt instead of anxiously charting French progress against Bulgaria.

"If Portugal had called me first, it would have been very hard to refuse," he says.

As recently as February 1992 Martins threw in his lot with France by appearing in their "B" team against England. That was just one of the milestones in a curious career.

He started to shine as a six-year-old in the school side PL Bergot, where his mates named him Coco. But for a while he looked like becoming Coco the clown as he grew more obsessed with circus tricks than the team game.

He spent hours and hours in splendid isolation trying to set records for ball-juggling and by the time he started secondary school he could manage 500 or even 600 touches.

Even while he was earning summer pocket-money by picking tomatoes, any hard, green specimen was likely to be juggled on the Martins footwear until converted into puree.

But the tomato training bore fruit in terms of technique and Coco found his way into a pro career via AS Brestoise and then Brest Armorique, where he made his debut on August 30, 1989, against Bordeaux.

He signed off 15 months later with a 3-2 win against Guingamp in Division Two, having been caught up in the winding-up proceedings which signalled his club's failure to overcome debts totalling some £15 million.

Lyon and Bordeaux promptly knocked on the Martins door but the Auxerre

Witschge in the 1-0 victory over Lokomotive Leipzig.

Next season it was five goals in 25 appearances. And then, just as he had "arrived" to all intents and purposes, so Cruyff, his mentor, left for Barcelona.

Kurt Linder, Cruyff's successor, thought Bergkamp was not ready for the great occasions. He put Bergkamp back into the reserves. But that was not Linder's only mistake and he was soon looking for work elsewhere. Bergkamp was restored to the action in the place of Van Basten, who had been sold to Milan, and his career took wings.

Between October 1988 and January 1989 he scored in a record 10 consecutive league matches. His talent even prompted a cheeky offer from old rivals Feyenoord and it demonstrates the sort of confusion into which Ajax had sunk that they very nearly accepted it before the fans' fury forced a change of mind.

From then on, the controversies ceased. No doubt in anyone's mind now that Bergkamp was star quality and his achievements proved it.

In 1991 Bergkamp was joint top Dutch league marksman — alongside PSV Eindhoven's Brazilian, Romario — with 25 goals. In 1992 he was alone as leading marksman, again on 25, and led Ajax to victory in the Cup-winners Cup. One more year, 1992, and he was starring in the finals of the European Championship, hailed as the "new Van Basten." Ajax could not resist the multi-million offer from Inter, who won a three-way auction with Milan and Juventus.

Adjusting to Italy — both the life and the football — has taken Bergkamp time. But a hat-trick against Rapid Bucharest of Romania in the first round of the UEFA Cup was a good sign . . . for Inter, for Holland and, not least, for football in general.

KEIR RADNEDGE

EDMUNDO

PALMEIRAS AND BRAZIL

One third of an ideal trio

IF ROMARIO was manager of Brazil, instead of playing for Barcelona, then Edmundo already would be guaranteed a place in the World Cup.

"For me, Brazil's ideal attack would be formed of myself, Bebeto and Edmundo," Romario said during a recent television debate.

Romario does not pick the team, so Edmundo might have to wait his turn. But the compliment cannot be taken lightly, coming from a player who is better known for moaning and groaning about his team-mates than lavishing praise on them.

Edmundo's style often bears a striking resemblance to Romario's. He has explosive pace, excellent dribbling ability and the knack for scoring goals, many of them spectacular.

Unfortunately, he shares the same disciplinary problems. Edmundo has been for an early shower five times this year, and escaped a lengthy ban thanks only to the notorious leniency of the Brazilian authorities.

They generously overturned a four-month ban imposed after he had shown his disliking for one of the red cards by shoving a hand in the referee's face.

His habit of contesting managerial decisions also has landed him in hot water.

He showered Palmeiras manager Vanderlei Luxemburgo with obscenities after being substituted recently before storming off the pitch and heading straight for the dressing room in a fit of pique.

Luxemburgo, not one to take that sort of thing lying down, responded by threatening to throw Edmundo out of the club.

"Either he turns into a professional or he will have problems," said Luxemburgo ominously.

"He has to realise that there is someone in charge here, and that's me."

Edmundo's relationship with Evair, his striking partner at Palmeiras, has been equally turbulent. In some matches, the two visibly avoided passing to each other where they could avoid it. Celebrating goals together is not one of their favourite past times.

For all this, Edmundo — full name Edmundo Alves de Souza Neto — has made a remarkable impact in less than two years of first-team football. He was born in April 1971, joined the Rio club Vasco da Gama as a youth, and worked his way through the junior divisions.

He did not make it to the first team until last year, but one chance was enough, and he finished with a Rio State Championship medal.

Vasco, in their typically short-sighted way, refused to recognise his contribution with a wage rise (Edmundo had been earning a pittance in his first year), which led him to join Palmeiras at the start of this year.

Five months later, his new club were celebrating their first title in seven years, when they won the Sao Paulo Championship.

Edmundo already has eight caps, and has scored twice for Brazil. More caps will be on the way if he can convince Parreira, a manager with a known dislike of problem players, that he is not more trouble than he is worth.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

manager Guy Roux phoned Coco several times a day until he persuaded him he could do a "Scifo job" in his midfield. The Official Receiver decreed a fee of £125,000!

Since then, things have moved fast. Apart from marrying Sandra on Boxing Day and seeing brother Mario, three years his junior, wearing the No. 10 shirt for Laval, Coco's attention has been monopolised by his own meteoric rise to the top.

He scored three goals in 15 games during the remainder of 1991-92, and made his mark as a supremely gifted playmaker, combining skill and vision with a will to get into scoring positions and trouble opposing goalkeepers — something he had not been encouraged to do at Brest.

Roux has monitored his progress in his typical blunt fashion, mixing praise with criticism for not accepting enough responsibility in the heart of the side.

"When he learns to be boss, he will be a great footballer," says Roux.

The Auxerre system, based on counter-attacks using three front men breaking fast, is just what the doctor ordered for Martins, and Gerard Houllier did not take long to decide he could perform a similar role in his rebuilt French national side in the World Cup qualifiers.

He was called into the squad for the World Cup qualifier against Austria in March, and went on for Franck Sauzee three minutes before time. He was then on the team-sheet for the 2-1 win over Sweden and suddenly Coco was flavour of the month, appearing in double-page press ads for Renault and being hailed as the player of the future.

Then he missed three easy chances in the opening ten minutes of the 2-0 win in Finland and was dropped from the side who amazingly lost 3-2 at home to Israel.

Roux is now busy keeping the Martins feet on the ground and blending consistency into his many, many virtues.

GRAHAM TURNER

The new Generation

RYAN GIGGS

MANCHESTER UNITED AND WALES

A ghost with a hammer in his boot

DURING and after the First World War, Wales had a boxer named Jimmy Wilde, who won the world featherweight title despite looking like a waif caught in a storm.

Featherweight Wilde never topped 94lb (43kg) during a lengthy career, but was good enough to demolish all-comers and earn the nickname of The Ghost with a Hammer in his Hand.

Comparisons are easily drawn by old-timers, especially if Welsh, when they see Ryan Giggs on duty for Manchester United. He is somewhat taller and almost half as heavy again as Wilde, but somehow looks smaller and lighter than he really is.

Giggs has everything a player would ideally like — including a tigerish tackle, which he occasionally produces when needs be.

Even on a bad night such as United's European disaster in Istanbul, when Giggs descended into the general mediocrity, you could see the whiplash strength waiting for a chance to be uncoiled.

Giggs relies more on skill and subtlety than sheer power, but the fact that he has plenty of the latter is worth emphasising. For a young man, not yet 20 as I write, he has made remarkable progress via two good feet, a lightning brain, that ferocious shot, and eager response to guidance from fellow players and chiefs.

At some stage of every game, however, all those are still not enough. In modern soccer, players at the top are driven to frenetic extremes by the demands for success: personal success, the club's success, the agent's success, the bank manager's success.

At such times, a boy has to be able to dig in and battle against men, physically as well as mentally. Giggs, perhaps the most talented British player to appear in a decade, has that ability.

And perhaps that is what sets him apart from the flood of promising but eventually disappointing youngsters.

United certainly unearthed a diamond when they recruited Giggs from school in his native Cardiff. After careful grooming and occasional senior appearances he duly established himself as a member of the team, not just the squad, and was a key figure in last season's Premiership title success, missing only one match.

He was also PFA Young Player of the Year for the second time in succession, and signed a boots-advertising deal that will make him wealthy even if he never laces on another pair.

More medals, more awards and more money seem virtually guaranteed for a mature youngster who is still widely and wisely protected by his club from media excesses.

As the youngest Welsh international in history, he is already assured of a place in the records.

And the great old game will be all the better if Wales qualify for World Cup '94, giving Giggs a chance to show his talents to a wider audience.

DAVID PROLE

JULEN GUERRERO

ATHLETIC BILBAO AND SPAIN

The Basque warrior

BIOGRAPHIES of 19-year-olds do not usually attain *War and Peace* dimensions, and if Julen Guerrero were to put pen to paper his story probably would boil down to a couple of pages.

"It's just a question of ten years of hard work on the training ground," he shrugs. "No, I've never had any idols.

"No, I don't dream about joining a bigger club. I dream of winning titles, but I dream of winning them here."

"Here" is his native Bilbao and the ten years of drudgery have taken place at Athletic's training complex at Lezama. His low-key, low-adrenalin attitude is vastly at odds with a surname which means Warrior.

So, for that matter, is some of his football — to the extent that he was dropped from the Spanish side who beat the Republic of Ireland 3-1 at Lansdowne Road because coach Javier Clemente thought him too fragile for a heavyweight contest. Had Spain lost, questions would have been asked about the exclusion of the country's brightest prospect.

Guerrero has gone into the history books behind another Bilbao player, Angel Zubieta, who was born on July 17, 1918 and made his international debut on April 26, 1936.

Julen Guerrero Lopez was born on January 7, 1974, and became Spain's second-youngest cap when called up for a friendly with Mexico on January 27, 1993, at 19 years and 20 days.

He then continued against Lithuania and Northern Ireland before hitting both goals in the return in Lithuania and repeating the trick against Chile. He was substituted during the 5-1 win in Albania.

Julen may be right to stress his routine development since he went to Lezama as a nine-year-old, under the wing of ex-international Jesus Garay.

Some even maintain that he is a "laboratory product". If so, others would dearly like to steal the formula. More positive assessors label him "the Basque Laudrup".

Bilbao's answer to the great Dane was born in the suburb of Portugalete

KAZUYOSHI
MIURA

VERDY KAWASAKI AND JAPAN

The Asian conqueror

ASIA was conquered in 1992 by one man — Kazuyoshi Miura.

His club, Yomiuri, won the Japan Soccer League and the J.League Cup. The national team won the Dynasty Cup and Asian Cup. Kazu was voted man of the tournament at the Dynasty Cup and Asian Cup, and player of the year in both Japan and Asia.

This year, his contract with Verdy Kawasaki is worth over £700,000, but he grosses far more with advertising revenues.

All that is a dream come true for the Japanese player who broke every mould. In a country where over 90 per cent of youngsters stay at school to 18, Miura dropped out at 15 and went alone to Brazil to play soccer.

The Brazilians said the Japanese could not play. Kazu showed that he could, signing professional forms with Santos at 18 and going on to win a regular first-team place. Brazilian journalists even voted him one of the country's best wingers.

That South American experience is everywhere evident in his play. He dribbles, wiggles, feints and breaks with speed. He is that rarest East Asian phenomenon, a player who changes the pace of the game.

He is calm and clinical, too, a penalty expert and scorer of decisive goals. Those include the 87th-minute winner against Iran in the Asian Cup, and the 116th-minute winner against the Ivory Coast in the Afro-Asia Cup. His other main weapon is his inswinging corner, to near or far post, from either side.

That curve has fooled even the most experienced goalkeepers and has been vital to the national team's success. His corners set up both goals in the crucial 2-0 defeat of the UAE in the World Cup qualifiers.

Kazu represents the new generation: quiet-spoken, style-conscious and highly individual. At the start of matches, he puts a hand on his heart and sings the anthem American style. When he scores, he twists his hips, raises one hand and clutches his crotch with the other, *a la* Michael Jackson.

Kazu next wants to play for a big European team. Verona approached him last year, but his priority then was the World Cup. With Japan's failure to qualify for US '94, such a move may now be close at hand.

MIKE PLASTOW AND MICHI ISHIJIMA

on the left bank of the River Nervion. He was a glassy-eyed ten-year-old when Athletic last paraded the League trophy down the river on a barge.

Despite his grounding at Lezama, Guerrero was considered to be "too technical" to make the grade at San Mames. German coach Jupp Henyckes, though, is rightly given credit for spotting the potential.

As recently as the 1991-92 season Julen was skippering the youth side to a League and Cup double. Many thought this could earn him a place in the reserve team, Bilbao Athletic.

Heynckes, instead, decided the young warrior was ready to be blooded and announced that he and young keeper Juanjo Valencia could leapfrog over the reserves.

The coach has paid so much attention to his development that Julen has been lumbered with the tag of "Heynckes's nephew".

Heynckes, abandoning the British-style long-ball game which has been Athletic's hallmark, set the scene for ball-playing midfielder Guerrero to use his skill and vision to maximum effect.

As an Under-19 international at 16, he always had been a likely lad, but he admitted that boredom soon set in if he did not have the ball, and his temperament was deemed fragile.

He answered that with 10 goals in 37 League games last season and the club promptly extended his contract until 1997 on vastly improved terms, amid rumours that Barcelona's Johan Cruyff was set to pounce.

Trying to keep a level head among all the hyperbole has been a major problem for Julen and Jupp. He left the field in tears after being substituted during Athletic's surprise 2-1 home defeat by Osasuna.

Two more defeats left him bearing the brunt of the crisis talk and the major question mark is now whether the youngster can cope with the pressures of top-level soccer.

If he can, Guerrero could become the lynch-pin of the Spanish national team for many years to come — maybe aided and abetted by his younger brother Jose Felix, already in the reserves at 17.

GRAHAM TURNER

NO European hit parade of strikers would be complete without the extraordinary Ghanaian, Anthony Yeboah. Last season he was joint top scorer in the German Bundesliga, with Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen), on 20 goals, and became the first black player to share the Golden Cannon.

This time he started like a rocket and topped the charts with nine league goals in as many games, Then he needed a knee operation which has put him out of action, until Christmas. His loss is incalculable as his club, Eintracht Frankfurt, go for their first title in 34 years.

Yeboah was born on June 6, 1966 in Kumasi, and first played for Cornerstone, and then for Okwawu United.

He was transferred to Second Division

ANTHONY
YEBOAH

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT AND GHANA

From Cornerstone to the Cannon

Saarbrucken, in 1988, and after two seasons, in which he scored 26 goals in 65 matches, he was snapped up by Eintracht. His record there reads 96 League games, 52 goals.

Although he shared the Cannon, his record was better than Kirsten's. Yeboah hit his 20 goals in 27 games, to Kirsten's 33.

He acknowledges that he had problems at first in Germany, but now says: "Since I became a star in Frankfurt I feel fully accepted and I am idolised."

He was voted the best foreigner in the Bundesliga by readers of the country's leading sports paper, *Kicker*.

Eintracht's president, Matthias Ohms, regards Yeboah as his most valuable asset, while the club's vice-president, 1974 World Cup winner Bernd Holzenbein, explains: "Tony runs 100 meters in well under 11 seconds. When he takes off, he can only be stopped by a foul."

Kaiserslautern's much-travelled manager, Frieldel Rausch, says: "Yeboah is the top striker in Europe".

And the highly-respected *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* describes him as "a mixture of Pele and Carl Lewis".

His team boss, Klaus Toppmoller says: "I feel certain Tony is capable of scoring 40 goals in a season, though maybe not this term as he is injured."

That figure would equal the Bundesliga record, but the man who set that mark 20 years ago, Gerd Muller, has no doubts.

"If anybody can score so many goals, it could only be Yeboah. He has everything.

"He is quick, dynamic, shoots accurately with either foot, and his heading is superb. What a pity injury has set him back."

Muller's club, Bayern Munich, are said to have offered Yeboah £600,000 a year — double what he earned then — but Frankfurt quickly stepped in with an improved wage structure and he has now extended his contract till 1996.

Holzenbein commented: "We paid £400,000 for Tony, and we wouldn't sell him even for £8 million."

Yeboah has no intention of leaving. "My family are happy here, I have great friends in Frankfurt, my team mates are congenial and the fans are behind me. It's fantastic."

He used to be a moody, inconsistent player and his former managers, Jorg Berger and Dragoslav Stepanovic, sensing oncoming African melancholy, occasionally banished him to the bench. In the next match he would be playing out of his skin.

Yeboah has come a long way since he grew up in Kumasi, Ghana's second-largest city, with three brothers and five sisters, son of a well-heeled civil servant.

Now he lives in comfort in a leafy suburb of Frankfurt with his second wife Tesha; he has two daughters, one by his former spouse.

Since he parted company with his adviser and an agent, he has changed. "Tony is full of confidence, like a new person," claims team mate Uli Stein.

And Yeboah agrees." I am my own man now," he says. "Sometimes I forget I'm black."

ARTHUR ROTMIL

Mighty Milan finally felled

THE MIGHTY have finally fallen. Whatever else happens between now and the end of this Italian season, Sunday October 31 will go down as The Turning Point, the day that the title contest was split wide open by Sampdoria's 3-2 defeat of champions AC Milan.

Sampdoria's remarkable fight back from 2-0 down not only ended Milan's two-year 72-match reign at the top of the table, but also provided a moment of perfect sporting justice when ex-Milan idol Ruud Gullit stepped up to smash in a majestic winner for Sampdoria, 13 minutes from time.

Gullit, after all, had a major score to settle. Milan had let him go to Sampdoria this summer for a derisory, UEFA regulation fee of £493,000, in the belief that his top-level career was as good as over.

Diplomatically, Gullit refrained from screaming vengeance after the game, limiting himself to a pertinent observation: "Yeah, I'm very pleased and for lots of reasons.

"Above all because Sampdoria have done what all Italian clubs have been wanting to do — compete with and defeat Milan".

Indeed, all Italy (with the obvious exception of AC fans) has wanted someclub to stop the imperious champions in their impressive tracks.

Brilliant . . . Sampdoria striker and skipper Roberto Mancini.

Sampdoria's victory came on the same day that Internazionale defeated joint leaders Parma 3-2, to leave five sides — Sampdoria and Juventus on top, and Parma, Inter and Milan in joint second — divided by one point.

By the time you read this, those positions may well have changed. But the championship now looks wide open.

A contest endered almost boring by Milan's total dominance of the past two seasons has burst back into red-hot life.

Significantly, too, Milan appeared to react badly to the defeat, with coach Fabio Capello angrily claiming that all three Sampdoria goals were irregular.

President Silvio Berlusconi had to intervene and ban coach and players from further discussion of the game, "lest people begin to dislike us".

One week earlier, after Milan had drawn 1-1 with Juventus in a televised top of the table showdown, Capello had struck an entirely different note, telling Italian radio: "What you saw last night was the great Milan, at its best and playing good football" Reading between the lines of Capello's statement, it was obvious that he was reminding rivals that, until there was proof to the contrary, Milan remain the Number One side in the land.

Not many who saw that match would have cared to argue with Capello's evalution.

The decisive period in a superb game of intelligent, attacking soccer came in the quarter of an hour afterthe Juventus goal when Milan, desperate to get back into the match, produced a stunning period of sustained pressure.

That eventually stretched Juveeyond breaking point, and produced a 76th- minute equaliser from Demetrio Albertini.

It is too early yet to say whether the subsequent Sampdoria defeat was merely a temporary hiccup or the first signs of impending decline.

For the time being, though, we suggest that Capello could well be right.

Milan may by temporarily on the canvas but they are a long way from being counted out.

They still remain THE side that everyone has to beat.

What is true, however, is that Milan's major rivals — Juventus, Parma, Sampdoria and perhaps Inter — are all much stronger, much improved sides on last season.

Juventus, with an in form Roberto Baggio, with a sparkling Andreas Moeller, with improved battlers and chasers in midfield such as Antonio Conte and Dino Baggio ,and with a new left back in Andrea Fortunato, look a tougher and more mature unit with every game.

A sorry show

BY THE TIME you read this, Italy's World Cup fate will be known, depending on the outcome of their final qualifying match against Portugal at San Siro on November 17.

Suffice to say that Italy had better improve on their performance in a 3-1 World Cup defeat of Scotland at the Olympic Stadium in Rome (left).

Despite an impressive scoreline, it took a combination of Olympic stadium jitters from the Scots, an error by goalkeeper Bryan Gunn and the inexplicable decision NOT to put a marker on Roberto Baggio to ease the way for Italy.

Even then, Italy, two goals up after 20 minutes, failed to impress, being run out of the game for long periods by a Scottish side in which the Leeds midfielder Gary McAllister was outstanding and who went within inches of equalising at 2-1 when a fiercely struck Gordon Durie shot was accidentally blocked by team-mate Kevin Gallacher.

RESULTS

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parma	9	6	2	1	13	4	14
Milan	9	5	4	0	10	2	14
Juventus	9	5	3	1	17	9	13
Sampdoria	9	6	1	2	17	11	13
Internazionale	9	4	4	1	8	4	12
Napoli	9	4	3	2	11	9	11
Cremonese	9	4	2	3	9	7	10
Torino	9	4	2	3	12	10	10
Lazio	9	2	5	2	5	7	9
Cagliari	9	3	2	4	13	15	8
Foggia	9	1	6	2	6	8	8
Roma	9	3	2	4	9	12	8
Piacenza	9	2	3	4	6	11	7
Genoa	9	1	4	4	4	7	6
Atalanta	9	2	2	5	12	16	6
Udinese	9	2	2	5	6	10	6
Reggiana	9	0	5	4	4	11	5
Lecce	9	0	2	7	5	14	2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

WEEKEND

MILAN 0
LAZIO 0. **Att:** 68,000.

PARMA 3 (Zola 17, 86, Asprilla 69)
FOGGIA 0. **Att:** 25,500.

JUVENTUS 3 (Conte 8, Moller 30, Kohler 78)
TORINO 2 (Fortunato 12, Sergio 38).
Att: 50,000.

ATALANTA 1 (Sauzee 67 pen)
SAMPDORIA 4 (Gullit 19, 58, T. Mancini 34, Platt 64). **Att:** 23,000.

NAPOLI 0
INTER 0. **Att:** 60,000.

PIACENZA 1 (Piovani 58)
CAGLIARI 1 (Oliveira 74). **Att:** 13,000.

ROMA 1 (Benedetti 50)
CREMONESE 2 (Dezotti 31 pen, Tentoni 73).
Att: 47,000.

GENOA 0
REGGIANA 0. **Att:** 24,000.

UDINESE 2 (Branca 58, 77)
LECCE 1 (Padalino 84). **Att:** 17,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

MIDWEEK

ITALIAN CUP — 2nd rnd, 1st leg

MILAN 3 VICENZA 0

PIACENZA 3 PERUGIA 1

COSENZA 0 ATALANTA 2

ASCOLI 1 TORINO 3

NAPOLI 0 ANCONA 0

LAZIO 0 AVELLINO 2

FIORENTINA 3 REGGIANA 0

JUVENTUS 1 VENEZIA 1

PARMA 2 PALERMO 0

BRESCIA 2 CREMONESE 2

CAGLIARI 1 CESENA 1

FOGGIA 2 TRIESTINA 2

PADUA 1 AS ROMA 1

SAMPDORIA 0 PISA 0

UDINESE 2 LECCE 0

LUCCHESE v INTERNAZIONALE
— postponed

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEEKEND

FOGGIA 1 (Kolyvanov 61)
MILAN 1 (Boban 82). **Att:** 23,000.

JUVENTUS 2 (R. Baggio 56 pen, Moller 59)
ATALANTA 1 (Ganz 70). **Att:** 43,000.

INTER 0
TORINO 0. **Att:** 62,000.

CREMONESE 0
PARMA 0. **Att:** 10,000.

SAMPDORIA 0
ROMA 1 (Balbo 44). **Att:** 35,000.

CAGLIARI 1 (Cappioli 37)
NAPOLI 2 (Fonseca 25, 28). **Att:** 22,000.

LAZIO 1 (Signori 91 pen)
PIACENZA 0. **Att:** 40,000.

LECCE 0
GENOA 0. **Att:** 10,000.

REGGIANA 1 (Ekstrom 13)
UDINESE 1 (Branca 41). **Att:** 12,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

WEEKEND

PARMA 1 (Melli 14)
REGGIANA 0. **Att:** 27,400.

MILAN 1 (Albertini 74)
JUVENTUS 1 (R. Baggio 60 pen). **Att:** 80,000.

TORINO 2 (Silenzi 41, Poggi 93)
SAMPDORIA 3 (S. Sacchetti 48, Gullit 54, 61). **Att:** 25,000.

UDINESE 0
INTER 1 (Sosa 41). **Att:** 22,000.

NAPOLI 3 (Fonseca 27, Policano 76, Pecchia 82)
LECCE 1 (Padalino 32).

CREMONESE 3 (Giandebiaggi 1, Gualco 47, Tentoni 82)
CAGLIARI 1 (Valdes 48). Att 7,000.

ROMA 1 (Piacentini 61)
LAZIO 1 (Di Mauro 78). **Att:** 70,600.

ATALANTA 1 (Sauzee 43)
FOGGIA 1 (Roy 40). **Att:** 20,000.

GENOA 1 (Turrini 57)
PIACENZA 0. **Att:** 23,000.

Sampdoria's good run should cause no surprise to *WORLD SOCCER* readers because we have underlined from the season's start how the side benefit from the immense contribution of the rejuvenated Gullit, England captain David Platt and their own brilliant skipper, Roberto Mancini.

As for Parma, they have surprised only by their ability to improve on their already high standards.

The club who seven seasons ago were plying their trade in Division Three against such as Carrarese, Favo, Legnano, Rondinella and Virescit have definitely taken a big step forward with the midsummer signing of Napoli's two experienced midfielders Gianfranco Zola and Massimo Crippa.

Indeed such is the pressure for team places at Parma that they have been experiencing Milan-style dressing room tensions, with dropped striker Alessandro Melli refusing to sit on the bench for a 0-0 draw with Cremonese.

Currently, Parma coach Nevio Scala prefers to use a three-man attack based on Swede Tomas Brolin, Colombian Faustino Asprilla and Zola, leaving Melli as a substitute option.

As far as Inter are concerned, the jury is still out.

That win against Parma may herald an important Turning Point, as important as that represented by Sampdoria's defeat of Milan.

That had better be the case if Inter are to have a say in this title contest.

For much of the first two months of this season they have looked most unimpressive, never more so than when struggling to beat little Appolon Limassol of Cyprus 1-0 at San Siro in a UEFA Cup tie.

Inter coach Osvaldo Bagnoli afterwards spoke of his shame. Several commentators are more concerned about his apparent indecision over the lack of blend between Dutchman Wim Jonk, Antonio Manicone, Russian Igor Shalimov and Francesco Dell'Anno in midfield, as well as those of Holland's Dennis Bergkamp with Salvatore Schillaci and Uruguayan Ruben Sosa up front.

Sosa's good form, as highlighted by his hat-trick against Parma, augurs well, while Bagnoli's record suggests that sooner or later Inter will begin to fire on all cylinders.

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£28,888,543 in the red or is it £40 million?

IF YOU'RE short of a bob or two, don't bother to go cap in hand to Real Madrid. The club are £28,888,543 in debt, according to the figures presented by president Ramon Mendoza during a stormy AGM.

Mendoza's opponents allege that the red numbers actually exceed £40 million.

Nearly 40 per cent of the "socios" with a right to vote handed in a NO card when asked to approve the accounts for the past financial year.

But, with 77 abstentions, Mendoza's supporters carried the day and the financial situation was rubber-stamped by the AGM, even though Mendoza's balance showed a loss of £825,000 on last season compared with £8,287,951 found by the auditors.

Mendoza blamed the £32m spent on modernising the Bernabeu Stadium for the delicate financial situation. Banks are now injecting £18.7m into the club to cover short-term commitments, and Mendoza is confident that by the end of next season the debt will be reduced to around £15m.

The salaries of over £1m paid to players such as Robert Prosinecki are being bitterly criticised, and the future of the basketball team is being seriously questioned after a season when losses totalled nearly £4m, refuelling complaints that football money is being used to subsidise loss-making sports.

Mendoza, feeling under threat from growing opposition, put a foot in it while trying to claim credit for the commercial development on the corner outside the stadium. He told the AGM that he had had to deceive City Hall in order to gain planning permission, whereupon City Hall opened an inquiry and the club felt obliged to issue an official communique reassuring all and sundry that the development had been above board.

Down in Barcelona, the financial crisis is not at Nou Camp but across the Diagonal at Sarria, home of Espanol.

Their AGM was equally stormy, with current president Francisco Perello within a whisker of throwing in the towel.

An audit revealed that the club, under previous president Julio Pardo, had spent over £35m in two years, leaving the "Budgies" desperately short of millet.

Last season, when the club lost to Racing Santander in the relegation play-offs, produced a loss of £9.3m, and Perello told shareholders that the club's total debit is now £29m.

The training ground has been sold, attendances in the Second Division are unlikely to solve anything, and the main objective now is to avoid selling the stadium.

GRAHAM TURNER

Cruyff writes

BARCELONA's bank account looks healthily black but some of the looks exchanged across the dressing-room have been the same colour.

Unrest amid the four foreigners — Koeman, Laudrup, Stoichkov and Romario — was always on the cards but, surprisingly, a few words from coach John Cruyff set the pot simmering. He has just published a book, *My Footballers and I*, in which he dedicates some choice lines to Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov.

"He should bear in mind" writes Cruyff, "that although he might lace up two boots, he's only got one leg — the left. That limits him a lot.

"Then there's the question of working for the team. There have been times when I have had the feeling that for Stoichkov team-mates are just people to be used for his own individual ends and then thrown away. It is a completely wrong attitude but one has to

THE BEST IN THE BOOK

Zubi looks back at life on a peak

BARCELONA goalkeeper **ANDONI ZUBIZARRETA** is now the most-capped footballer in Spanish history. The World Cup qualifying victory against the Republic of Ireland at Landsdowne Road was his 82nd appearance, overhauling the record set by the former Real Madrid left-back, Jose Antonio Camacho.

Zubizarreta talks to **GRAHAM TURNER** about nearly nine years of international football.

WS: What do you remember of your debut?

AZ: It was a friendly against Finland in Alicante. When we came down for lunch the manager, Miguel Munoz, told me I was going to replace Luis Arconada in the second half. I got fairly nervous, but once I was warmed up and out on the pitch, I was all right.

You're worried about making a bad mistake in your first game. But we were 3-1 up when I went on and we stayed 3-1 up. To be honest, I didn't have much work. That was January 23, 1985.

WS: Do you feel you've improved, developed — or worsened?

AZ: I've improved. The obvious thing is to point to all the experience I've accumulated, but I've also learnt to do more.

I recently watched a video of that Finland match and I realised how many things are, these days, either downright impossible to do or have to be done a different way. A lot of the rule changes have affected goalkeepers and the last defender, who is usually the goalkeeper.

I always maintain that national team games are much more intense than club matches, which is why some keepers suffer a bit. Usually there are fewer scoring chances so you have to be alert, and you also know that, even in friendlies, the eyes of the whole country are on you. If it's a crucial qualifying match or a game in the World Cup finals, you can imagine the tension.

WS: Which would you pick out as your best game?

AZ: None. The debut was a special occasion, but most footballers remember games because of the result rather than individual performance. So my worst memories are not of personal mistakes, but of matches we have lost. Qualifying or not qualifying for World Cups and European Championships are perhaps the best and worst memories. Missing Sweden was a hard blow. So was the way we were knocked out of my two World Cups, in 1986 and 1990 — penalties against Belgium and extra time against Yugoslavia. We played better than them and lost.

WS: In Mexico you acquired a reputation for being unable to save penalties and you took years to shake it off . . .

Upset . . . Hristo Stoichkov is miffed by comments in Johan Cruyff's new book.

and wrongs

understand that it's the way he has been brought up.

"In Bulgaria he used to take the mickey out of everybody. It's a bit like the problem Romario had.

"As kids they were so much better than the rest that nobody corrected them. Exactly the opposite. They pandered to every whim. Stoichkov said 'I don't feel like training today' and he didn't train."

That riled Stoichkov and when Cruyff sent him to the main stand to watch the Champions Cup match against Austria Vienna, he said "bulgar that" or words to that effect. "I don't have to stand for this any longer," he snapped.

"Maybe I don't do enough crying and moaning during the week to get into the team." That last sentence raised hackles in the dressing-room, where Koeman has repeatedly told the media how bad he felt about being left out.

"Things will never be the same between us again," he said. When club skipper Jose-Maria Bakero was called in to prevent civil war, he announced that he too was miffed about being dropped, and needed time to think things over. "I am not sure of myself any more," he said.

Maybe Barcelona need to sign a psychiatrist, as Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil has done. Jair Pereira lasted seven League and three UEFA Cup games, but managerial sackings have become so routine that perhaps we should reserve space in the February issue for the next one.

Gil, fresh from losing two stones on a Costa del Sol health farm, announced his top priority was not to sign a new coach but to bring in a "head shrinker" to sort out players who have been performing poorly.

Striker Mario Tilico has not survived for psychiatric treatment. A poor UEFA Cup game against OFI Crete was enough to persuade the club to tear up his contract.

In the meantime, Valencia and Barcelona have continued their steady if unspectacular progress at the top, leaving John Toshack's Real Sociedad and Luis Aragones's Sevilla as the surprises among the early front-runners.

Tosh, remembering that his side had 10 points last Christmas, was shocked to amass the same total by mid-October.

"I don't like starting a marathon so fast," he commented. "They're all behind us and I prefer them out in front where we've got a clear view of them."

Aragones has underlined his tactical shrewdness by moulding post-Maradona Sevilla into a sound counter-punching unit.

PRO-FILE

ANDONI ZUBIZARRETA

BARCELONA AND SPAIN

Born: October 23, 1961

Previous Club: Athletic Bilbao

International caps: 82

HONOURS

Spanish Championship: 1983, 1984, 1991, 1992, 1993

Spanish Cup: 1984, 1988, 1990

Champions Cup: 1992

Cup-winners Cup: 1989

AZ: Yes, everyone thought we would beat Belgium easily in that quarter-final. People were talking more about a semi-final against Argentina than about the Belgium game. But it went to penalties and I didn't stop any. People looked for a scapegoat and it was me.

That also coincided with a delicate spell on my arrival at Barcelona to replace Urruti, who had become a bit of a folk hero, and I went two seasons without saving a spot-kick! Two or three went wide, but I didn't stop one. You can imagine the comments.

Since then I've saved a lot of penalties, a lot of them due to sheer luck.

WS: Which keepers have impressed you over the years?

AZ: A lot, because I try to learn from everybody, especially in high-tension occasions like a World Cup. I prefer the serious reliable type of keeper, so I was happy to discover Zaki in Mexico '86.

You never know what to expect from African keepers. Some are highly unorthodox, but Zaki's performances for Morocco impressed me, and he confirmed his quality when he came to play for Mallorca.

South American keepers have taught me things, as well. They have a different way of coming off their line and dealing with one-on-one situations. I enjoyed watching Fillol when he was at Atletico Madrid. A lot of little details go into your personal reference file.

WS: Would you say there's a dearth of quality keepers now?

AZ: Not really. Confidence is a major factor for keepers and you need luck in your early games for the national team. Goalkeeper is one of the positions where the fans get used to seeing the same face over a period of many years, and change can be a tricky process. Again, it's down to good results.

Many things are forgiven if the results are right, and vice versa. If results are poor and the team are not playing well, the criticism is usually aimed at the back. And if a solitary goal decides the game, that puts the keeper under a microscope. You then get a negative tension instead of the positive tension which exists in a winning team.

WS: Which coaches have influenced you? You've worked with Munoz, Suarez, Miera, Clemente, Cruyff. . .

AZ: I don't think influence is the correct word, because they've been more important via the confidence they've had in me than for anything they've done to change my style.

Clemente gave me my first chance at Athletic Bilbao. Venables stuck by me during the early days at Barcelona when I had to take a lot of stick. Cruyff has continued with me, whereas a lot of people thought he wouldn't.

He hasn't changed me as a keeper, but he's changed my position. He requires the keeper to participate more.

The only coach who has really influenced my development as a goalkeeper is Jose Angel Iribar. He coached the keepers while I was at Athletic and I used to work with him every day, a lot of the time individually. Apart from admiring his career I identified myself with his way of thinking about football, and he was a profound influence.

WS: Iribar kept goal for Spain between 1964 and 1976 yet won only 49 caps. You've taken less than nine years to reach the 80s.

AZ: Yes, but statistics don't bother me that much. Breaking the record is nice but getting stuck on 80 games wouldn't have been the end of the world. I don't think it's fair that Camacho's 81 games should disappear into oblivion just because I've played more.

WS: So you haven't got your sights set on joining the greats in the 100 Club?

AZ: That's a long way off and I have always believed in taking life game by game. A new manager could arrive and drop me. It's all back to results.

If Spain had qualified for Sweden, I could have played five games more. In any case, I think that's something for when you retire and you can look back and see your name alongside the greats like Banks, Zoff, Shilton, Maier and Jennings.

WS: Anything you'll look back on and chuckle about?

AZ: Yes. The four goals my team-mate Gary Lineker put past me when England beat us 4-2 in Madrid in 1987. We'd been taking some stick in Barcelona during the week and at the weekend we had to play Real Madrid. He won a lot of Catalan hearts in four days by scoring four against the Spanish national team in Madrid and then three against Real.

RESULTS

PRIMERA DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	8	5	2	1	14	4	12
Valencia	8	5	2	1	14	8	12
Real Sociedad	8	5	2	1	12	8	12
La Coruna	8	4	3	1	8	1	11
Sevilla	8	4	3	1	13	6	11
Athletic Bilbao	8	4	1	3	13	11	9
Celta	8	2	5	1	7	5	9
Racing Santander	8	4	1	3	6	5	9
Real Madrid	8	3	2	3	12	10	8
Atletico Madrid	8	2	4	2	11	11	8
Sporting Gijon	8	3	2	3	7	8	8
Tenerife	8	3	2	3	10	12	8
Rayo Vallecano	8	3	1	4	11	13	7
Albacete	8	1	5	2	7	10	7
Logrones	8	3	0	5	9	12	6
Real Valladolid	8	2	2	4	6	10	6
Real Zaragoza	8	1	3	4	8	13	5
Osasuna	8	2	1	5	10	15	5
Real Oviedo	8	1	3	4	5	11	5
Lleida	8	0	2	6	4	14	2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

WEEKEND

ATHLETIC BILBAO 2 (Garcia 49, Urrutia 76)
REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Aragon 34). **Att:** 35,000.

OSASUNA 2 (Merino 66, Ziober 89)
BARCELONA 3 (Romario 33, 38, Stoichkov 81). **Att:** 22,000.

LLEIDA 1 (Aguila 26)
VALENCIA 1 (Pizzi 25). **Att:** 10,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 0
REAL MADRID 0. **Att:**42,000.

LA CORUNA 0
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Alquiza 58). **Att:** 45,000.

OVIEDO 0
SEVILLA 2 (Suker 44, 46). **Att:** 19,000.

RACING SANTANDER 2 (Mutiu 34, Merono 83)
SPORTING GIJON 0. **Att:** 22,000.

RAYO VALLECANO 3 (Onesimo 26, Mandia 47 og, Hugo Sanchez 85)
LOGRONES 1 (Paco 27). **Att:** 6,000.

REAL VALLADOLID 1 (Gracia 74)
ALBACETE 0. **Att:** 8,000.

TENERIFE 0
CELTA 0. **Att:** 18,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

MIDWEEK

BARCELONA 3 (Beguiristain 5, 9, Romario 70)
VALLADOLID 0. **Att:** 65,000.

VALENCIA 3 (Pizzi 47, Arroyo 53, Eloy 19)
RAYO VALLECANO 1 (Orejuela 44). **Att:** 45,000.

SEVILLA 2 (Simeone 72, 89)
ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Manolo 61). **Att:** 35,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Kodro 42, 83)
OVIEDO 2 (Jokanovic 32, 69). **Att:** 18,000.

ALBACETE 0
LA CORUNA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

REAL MADRID 2 (Butragueno 80, Michel 90 pen)
RACING SANTANDER 1 (Radchenko 37). **Att:** 75,000.

SPORTING GIJON 1 (Juanele 1)
TENERIFE 2 (Pier 18, Chano 50). **Att:** 15,700.

CELTA 1 (Losada 87)
LLEIDA 0. **Att:** 10,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 2 (Esnaider 19, 22)
OSASUNA 1 (Merino 28). **Att:** 10,000.

LOGRONES 4 (Salenko 14, 34, 75, Herrero 24)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 2 (Ciganda 39, Valverde 42 pen). **Att:** 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEEKEND

LA CORUNA 1 (Bebeto 52)
BARCELONA 0. **Att:** 28,000.

LOGRONES 2 (Iturino 33, Poyatos 39)
VALENCIA 0. **Att:** 10,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Quevedo 21)
REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Luis Perez 25, Kodro 38 pen). **Att:** 20,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Carlos Garcia 68)
OSASUNA 2 (Bustingorri 51, Martin Dominguez 59). **Att:** 37,000.

RACING SANTANDER 1 (Setien 36 pen)
SEVILLA 0. **Att:** 14,420.

TENERIFE 0
REAL MADRID 0. **Att:** 22,000.

RAYO VALLECANO 1 (Pablo 9)
CELTA 1 (Salva 67). **Att:** 7,000.

VALLADOLID 0
REAL ZARAGOZA 0. **Att:** 8,000.

LLEIDA 1 (Virgilio 59)
SPORTING GIJON 1 (Tomas 55). **Att:** 8,000.

OVIEDO 1 (Jokanovic 76)
ALBACETE 1 (Saia 80 pen). **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

WEEKEND

BARCELONA 1 (Baquero 45)
REAL OVIEDO 0. **Att:** 75,000.

VALENCIA 1 (Penev 31)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 0. **Att:** 39,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Kodro 12 pen, 57)
RACING SANTANDER 0. **Att:** 20,400.

SEVILLA 4 (Moya 6, Ferreira 73, Suker 78, 84)
TENERIFE 0. **Att:** 35,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 0
LA CORUNA 1 (Soiana 66 og). **Att:** 11,000.

CELTA 2 (Salinas 58, Gudelj 59)
LOGRONES 0. **Att:** 19,000.

REAL MADRID 5 (Alfonso 15, Zamorano 46, 55, Butragueno 87, Michel 90 pen)
LLEIDA 0. **Att:** 75,000.

ALBACETE 2 (Gell 5, Menendez 44)
ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Quevedo 24, Luis Garcia 60 pen). **Att:** 10,000.

SPORTING GIJON 2 (Muniz 32 pen, Stanic 89)
RAYO VALLECANO 0. **Att:** 14,300.

OSASUNA 2 (Merino 73, Ziober 88)
VALLADOLID 0. **Att:** 10,000.

Hell for Houllier

Shock defeat makes the last match critical

GRAHAM TAYLOR is not the only West European manager to endure abundant flak for his team's performance. Gerard Houllier came under withering fire after that truly shocking defeat by Israel at the Parc des Princes.

Pele was there — where isn't he? — to kick off ceremonially. Afterwards he spoke grimly of the need to know how to preserve a lead in any match.

Indeed, France led 2-1 with seven minutes to go when Ronny Rosenthal began to run wild and free down the left, the French defence collapsed, and Israel, playing remarkably precise football along the ground on a soaked pitch, got two late goals to win through.

So France go down to the wire against Bulgaria, when it had looked as if they could skate to the States.

Houllier wants a contract to take him up and beyond the next World Cup, which will be played in France. But the word is that he will not get it, at least for the moment. That it depends on France's World Cup fortunes.

The case against the French team is that they have relied for far too long on the combination of Jean-Pierre Papin and Eric Cantona up front. Both failed dismally against Israel.

Behind them there is no player to give them the kind of passes they desire and deserve. Even Franck Sauzee had a shocker in midfield against Israel, and the clever Franco-Portuguese Corentin Martins of Auxerre was not even there. Only one French player came out of that dire game with any credit: David Ginola. And nobody could understand why, even five minutes from the end, Houllier should take him off and put on Youri Djorkaeff.

Accused . . . Gerard Houllier.

That came a couple of minutes after Berkowitz had levelled the scores, and four minutes before Rosenthal went thundering down the left to present Atar with the traumatising winner.

Ginola, who struck a fine second goal for France, was largely up front in a three-man attack, itself the subject of criticism. But should such games be played in Paris?

Cantona, who comes from Marseille, longs for matches to be played in the provinces, even if he does tend to exaggerate.

"A half full stadium for a decisive World Cup qualifying match!"

With all respect for the ever fluent and combative Cantona, it was a lot more than half full. Even if he may have a point when he says how unfair it was of the crowd, such as it was, to get on to Papin, who has scored so many important goals for France.

Cantona's own dissatisfaction with his display could be behind the protest. Flying home, so to speak, to Manchester, he expressed his love for the English game, said he got a frisson every time he heard the British national anthem but nothing at all when he heard the Marseillaise, how he delighted in sight of so many games being played in a Manchester public park, with the players shaking hands after their various clashes.

Strange, no doubt, for you English to read, after you've been prey to so much soul searching and self criticism after that disaster in Rotterdam. But so it goes. Houllier is now accused of fielding a French team living from hand to mouth, that has no true pattern of play, who lack individual technique, and who come apart in defence. As for the midfield, the criticism goes that there are too many defensive players involved, no true creator.

PSG's star-spangled team look the best bet for the title, and it was strange to think, when Valdo's superb run gave George Weah the easy goal to beat Metz, away, that the Brazilian has been neglected by Parreira for his World Cup team.

Marseille have been forced to sell Alen Boksic to Lazio, for a huge fee. It remains to be seen how Boksic settles down at a club where so much has gone wrong this season, and where impassioned fans abuse players and kick their cars.

Even Boksic admitted: "I don't think it's the ideal moment for me to move from the sporting point of view.

"On the one hand, I'd have preferred to join my new club, as was originally planned, for the start of the new season. On the other, Lazio have some problems after being booted out of the Italian Cup.

"I've not forgotten that Marseille gave me the chance to become a great player. Marseille are such a strong team at the moment that they'll easily get on without me. Nobody is indispensable, and I haven't changed my views about that."

ANDRE DUCLOS

Bemused . . . France crashed to a surprise 3-2 home defeat against Israel in Paris.

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	14	9	3	2	20	8	21
Bordeaux	14	8	3	3	19	9	19
Monaco	14	7	3	4	23	13	17
Auxerre	14	7	3	4	20	13	17
Marseille	13	6	5	2	15	11	17
Cannes	14	6	5	3	19	16	17
Nantes	14	5	6	3	13	9	16
Strasbourg	14	3	9	2	17	13	15
Sochaux	14	4	7	3	15	12	15
Saint-Etienne	14	4	6	4	15	12	14
Metz	14	4	4	6	12	13	12
Montpellier	12	4	4	4	12	13	12
Lyon	14	4	4	6	14	18	12
Caen	14	5	2	7	9	21	12
Lens	14	3	5	6	10	12	11
Martigues	14	2	7	5	14	22	11
Le Havre	14	1	8	5	8	15	10
Toulouse	13	2	6	5	9	19	10
Lille	14	1	7	6	12	17	9
Angers	14	2	5	7	12	22	9

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

WEEKEND

STRASBOURG 0
BORDEAUX 2 (Vercruysse 6, 44). **Att:** 30,306.

MARTIGUES 1 (Anziani 6)
PARIS SG 1 (Rai 8). **Att:** 8,000.

METZ 0
CANNES 0. **Att:** 11,352.

CAEN 0
MONACO 1 (Ikpeba 81). **Att:** 17,594.

LILLE 1 (Assadourian 40)
MARSEILLE 2 (Futre 28, Rui Barros 88). **Att:** 10,510.

SOCHAUX 1 (Vos 64)
LENS 1 (Omam-Biyik 48). **Att:** 4,116.

AUXERRE 5 (Martins 29, Laslandes 38, Cocard 44, 65, Henna 89)
TOULOUSE 1 (Ferrer 80 pen). **Att:** 5,000.

LYON 2 (Pele 8, Roy 90)
NANTES 1 (Ziani 50). **Att:** 10,000.

MONTPELLIER 3 (Asanovic 24, 63, Thetis 50)
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 8,000.

ANGERS 0
LE HAVRE 0. **Att:** 3,724.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

MIDWEEK

BORDEAUX 1 (Lizarazu 70 pen)
MONTPELLIER 1 (Perilleux 89). **Att:** 15,000.

PARIS SG 1 (Le Guen 54)
LENS 0. **Att:** 14,000.

CANNES 2 (Priou 79 pen, Ferhaoui 92)
MARTIGUES 1 (Tholot 35). **Att:** 5,000.

MARSEILLE 2 (Durand 46, 80)
STRASBOURG 1 (Hasek 34). **Att:** 13,410.

MONACO 1 (Flachez 40 og)
LYON 1 (Dumas 43 og). **Att:** 3,000.

NANTES 2 (Ouedec 84, 86)
METZ 0. **Att:** 8,000.

LILLE 3 (Assadourian 10, Etame 31, Rollain 74)
SOCHAUX 1 (Vos 29). **Att:** 4,926.

LE HAVRE 1 (Tiehi 17)
AUXERRE 0. **Att:** 6,431.

ST ETIENNE 5 (Moravcik 3 pen, 36, Wohlfarth 7, Cello Silva 52 og, Camara 84)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 8,572.

TOULOUSE 2 (Menecek 67, Bancarel 85)
ANGERS 1 (Daury 6). **Att:** 5,981.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEEKEND

METZ 0
PARIS SG 1 (Weah 28). **Att:** 14,833.

CAEN 1 (Nouma 75)
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 19,004.

LENS 2 (R. Boli 12, 60)
CANNES 1 (Priou 80 pen). **Att:**10,613.

SOCHAUX 1 (Vos 16)
NANTES 1 (Ouedec 63). **Att:** 3,500.

MONTPELLIER v MARSEILLE — *abandoned*

AUXERRE 4 (Baticle 32, Cocard 40, Verlaat 47 pen, 83)
MONACO 0. **Att:** 10,000.

STRASBOURG 1 (Leboeuf 49)
LILLE 1 (Andersson 90). **Att:** 12,504.

ANGERS 1 (El Hadaoui 29 pen)
ST ETIENNE 1 (Blanc 22). **Att:** 7,609.

LYON 1 (Roche 72)
LE HAVRE 1 (Rio 52). **Att:** 9,500.

MARTIGUES 1 (Tholot 45 pen)
TOULOUSE 1 (Pavon 41). **Att:** 3,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

WEEKEND

CANNES 0
PARIS SG 1 (Guerin 7). **Att:** 8,000.

BORDEAUX 1 (Paille 45)
ANGERS 0. **Att:** 10,000.

MONACO 7 (Scifo 35, 50, Djorkaeff 56 pen, 76, 79, 88, Klinsmann 70)
MARTIGUES 0. **Att:** 3,000.

NANTES 1 (Ouedec 52 pen)
AUXERRE 2 (Baticle 45, 65). **Att:** 19,000.

MARSEILLE 1 (Prunier 72)
SOCHAUX 1 (Vos 83). **Att:** 20,000.

STRASBOURG 3 (Leboeuf 55 pen, 66 pen, 82)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 8,205.

ST ETIENNE 1 (Wohlfarth 28)
METZ 0. **Att:** 11,524.

LILLE 0
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 5,392.

TOULOUSE 2 (Bancarel 4, Debeve 46)
LYON 0. **Att:** 5,466.

LE HAVRE 1 (Bertin 32)
LENS 1 (R. Boli 56). **Att:** 6,905.

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Rebel Ewald leads Duisburg charge

AFTER ten Bundesliga matches the surprise team of the season, newly-promoted Duisburg, were still unbeaten, but they slumped to a 4-1 defeat at rejuventated Borussia Monchangladbach.

A week later leaders Eintracht Frankfurt suffered their first setback, losing 1-0 . . . to Duisburg. These two clubs had made the headlines during the past month.

Eintracht were delighted with their best start to the championship in the 31 years of the Bundesliga's existence, though the loss of top striker Anthony Yeboah with a leg injury is proving a serious handicap.

Some experts are impressed with the work of their new manager, former international striker Klaus Toppmoller.

Hamburg team boss Benno Mohlmann says: "The secret of Eintracht's success revolves around the attitude of the players. Everyone believes that they can win the title. And faith can move mountains."

The Norwegian libero and captain of champions Werder Bremen, Rune Bratseth, thinks that "Eintracht are a complete team, without a weakness and craving success."

Impressive . . . Klaus Toppmoller.

Unfashionable Duisburg, promoted for the second time in three seasons, are a side without stars. The club from the industrial Ruhr operate on a shoestring budget, but caused the campaign's first sensation when they won 5-1 away to title-holders Bremen.

Duisburg also have a new trainer, the controversial Ewald Lienen. He was once described in the media as "an anarchist" and "a perverse rebel who always looks back in anger".

Lienen finished his playing career two years ago, at Duisburg, after 333 Bundesliga matches, including spells with Borussia Monchengladbach. He had a season as manager of their amateur section, and was promoted in July.

"We must work very hard and concentrate in order to stay up," he says. "But I'm confident that top players from the Second Division can make it in the First. I am banking on the determination and character of my men."

Improvement also is noticeable at Bayern, after an indifferent start. The run of success is put down to four factors. Team boss Erich Ribbeck discarded the system of four defenders and is relying on the newly-appointed libero — Lothar Matthaus.

The recovered Thomas Helmer is outstanding as man-marker, Brazilian Jorginho, after returning from South American World Cup qualifiers, is again the midfield artist, and the talented Mehmet Scholl is hitting the target at last.

Psychologically Bayern are stronger and full of confidence. And finally peace reigns within the club following the feuds of last season.

Bayern again average the highest gates (44,000), while their support in away matches is so numerous that general manager Uli Hoeness remarked, tongue in cheek: "We only have home matches now."

By contrast, Borussia Dortmund have been the biggest disappointment so far. After investing £8 million in new players they were generally tipped for the title, but as team manager Ottmar Hitzfeld points out: "The pressure is too great.

"Our midfield lacks ideas and when we concede a goal some players lose thier heads. We need a schemer, a general who can orchestrate attacking moves.

"A pity that Michael Rummenigge has left us for Japan. Several so-called stars are inconsistent, while Karlheinz Riedle needs time to become fully integrated."

German club football appears stronger than last season. For the first time in 13 years, all six contestants survived the opening round of the three European competitions.

In 1991-92, immediately after unification, all Bundesliga entrants got through the first round, but of the former East Germany, Hansa Rostock, Stahl Eisenhuttenstadt and Chemie Halle were all eliminated.

Germany's new Footballer of the Year is the national team goalkeeper, Andreas Kopke of Nurnberg, who received a massive 194 votes from sports journalists. Austrian midfielder Andy Herzog (Werder Bremen) had 73 votes and Anthony Yeboah (Eintracht Frankfurt) 64.

The national team's 5-0 victory over Uruguay was greeted with muted delight. The visitors, deprived of several of their leading players, presented little threat.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

Outstanding . . . Thomas Helmer of Bayern Munich.

RESULTS

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eintracht	13	9	3	1	32	13	21
Werder Bremen	13	7	4	2	24	14	18
Bayern Munich	13	6	5	2	33	15	17
Kaiserslautern	13	7	3	3	26	15	17
Hamburg SV	13	8	1	4	25	18	17
MSV Duisburg	13	5	6	2	20	16	16
Leverkusen	13	6	3	4	26	19	15
Bor. Dortmund	13	5	3	5	19	20	13
Koln	13	5	3	5	15	16	13
Karlsruhe SC	12	3	5	4	14	16	11
VfB Stuttgart	12	3	5	4	17	24	11
Dyn. Dresden	13	3	5	5	14	24	11
SC Freiburg	13	3	4	6	21	25	10
Borussia Mg	13	3	4	6	22	28	10
FC Nurnberg	13	4	2	7	18	25	10
Wattenscheid	13	1	6	6	18	25	8
VfB Leipzig	13	1	6	6	10	25	8
Schalke	13	1	4	8	10	26	6

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

MIDWEEK

BORUSSIA MG 0
VfB STUTTGART 2 (Kogl 24, Sverrisson 52). **Att:** 21,000.

WEEKEND

VfB STUTTGART 0
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Gaudino 70, Bein 84). **Att:** 42,000.

SCHALKE 1 (Luginer 75)
WERDER BREMEN 1 (Hobsch 86). **Att:** 24,830.

DUISBURG 0
KOLN 0. **Att:** 26,000.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 4 (Sergio 39, 77, Zietsch 45 og, Schuster 85)
NURNBERG 0. **Att:** 12,500.

BAYERN MUNICH 4 (Helmer 40, Schupp 63, Valencia 74, Scholl 80)
HAMBURG 0. **Att:** 63,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 3 (Marschall 1, Kranz 39, Schmaler 61)
KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kranz 39). **Att:** 15,600.

WATTENSCHEID 1 (Lesniak 28)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Zorc 69, Chapuisat 76). **Att:** 30,000.

FREIBURG 3 (Zeyer 12, Seeliger 20, Todt 61)
KARLSRUHE 3 (Schmitt 14, Bender 52, 66 pen). **Att:** 15,000.

VfB LEIPZIG 1 (Anders 81 pen)
BORUSSIA MG 1 (Bachirou 65). **Att:** 10,200.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

WEEKEND

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Furtok 26, 86)
VfB LEIPZIG 1 (Edmond 86). **Att:** 22,500.

WERDER BREMEN 4 (Votava 52, Hobsch 69, Eilts 71, A. Herzog 72)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0. **Att:** 36,060.

HAMBURG 2 (Von Heesen 12, Hartmann 27)
WATTENSCHEID 1 (Lesniak 34). **Att:** 18,800.

KOLN 0
BAYERN MUNICH 4 (Scholl 14, Jorginho 63, Helmer 76, Zickler 78). **Att:** 55,000.

KAISERSLAUTERN 5 (Kuntz 17, 28, 78 pen, Eriksson 38, Marin 73)
VfB STUTTGART 0. **Att:** 34,000.

BORUSSIA MG 4 (Bachirou 14, Dahlin 30, 71, Wynhoff 42)
DUISBURG 1 (Kozle 84). **Att:** 30,000.

KARLSRUHE 2 (Bender 23, Kiriakov 25)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 0. **Att:** 19,000.

NURNBERG 3 (Schwabl 6, Zarate 25, Kopke 88 pen)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 0. **Att:** 30,400.

FREIBURG 3 (Zeyer 40, Wassmer 52, Braun 76)
SCHALKE 1 (Mulder 57). **Att:** 26,365.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEEKEND

DUISBURG 1 (Preetz 42)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0. **Att:** 26,000.

FREIBURG 0
WERDER BREMEN 0. **Att:** 15,000.

BAYERN MUNICH 3 (Matthaus 4 pen, M. Schneider 40 og, Nerlinger 45)
BORUSSIA MG 1 (Pflipsen 51). **Att:** 55,000.

VfB LEIPZIG 0
KAISERSLAUTERN 0. **Att:** 11,200.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 5 (Kirsten 19, 37, Sergio 22, 69, Thom 81)
SCHALKE 1 (Anderbrugge 88). **Att:** 22,900.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Zorc 49, Chapuisat 52)
HAMBURG 1 (Baron 88). **Att:** 42,800.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Kahn 28 og)
KARLSRUHE 1 (Kiriakov 40). **Att:** 15,500.

WATTENSCHEID 2 (Fink 70, Lesniak 78)
KOLN 2 (Baumann 30, D. Lehmann 44). **Att:** 7,204.

STUTTGART 1 (Knup 16)
NURNBERG 0. **Att:** 20,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

WEEKEND

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Furtok 30, Okocha 62)
BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Nerlinger 35, Matthaus 45). **Att:** 61,146.

WERDER BREMEN 0
HAMBURG 0. **Att:** 35,000.

KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Sforza 11, Kadlec 84)
DUISBURG 0. **Att:** 38,500.

FREIBURG 1 (Todt 48)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 0. **Att:** 15,000.

KOLN 2 (Polster 67 pen, 69)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0. **Att:** 41,000.

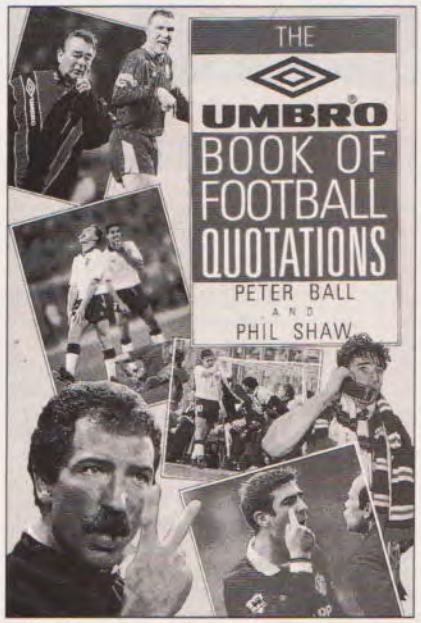
SCHALKE 0
DYNAMO DRESDEN 0. **Att:** 26,230.

BORUSSIA MG 3 (Bachirou 12, 47, Pflipsen 73)
WATTENSCHEID 3 (Sane 27, 75, Fink 89). **Att:** 20,000.

NURNBERG 5 (Golke 9, Zarate 36, Wuck 40, Sutter 65, Kubik 73)
VfB LEIPZIG 0. **Att:** 30,000.

KARLSRUHE v VfB STUTTGART — *postponed*

Goalless . . . Duisburg v Koln.



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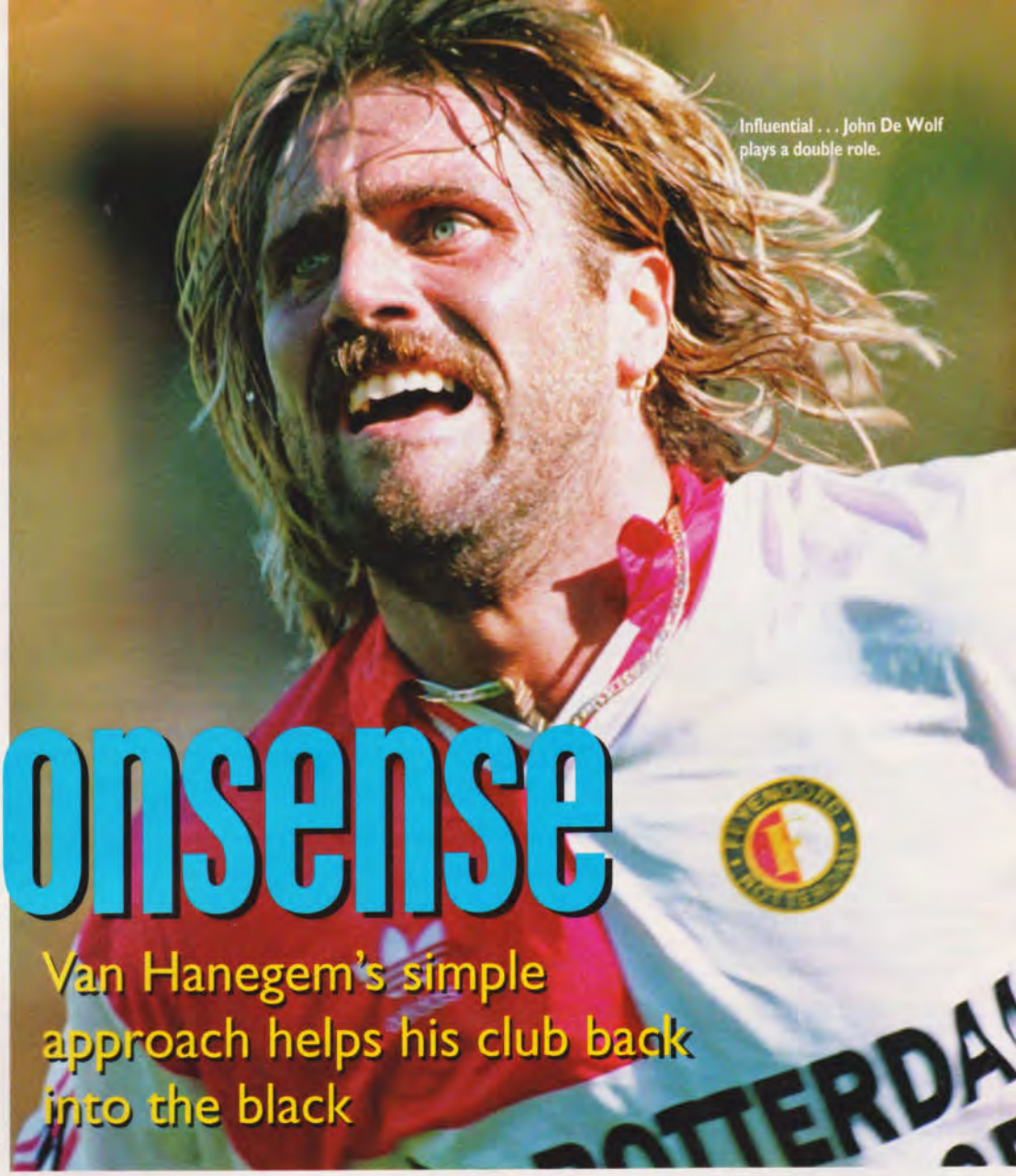
CLUB FOCUS

BY ERIC NICHOLLS


Influential . . . John De Wolf plays a double role.

No nonsense

Van Hanegem's simple approach helps his club back into the black

FEYENOORD FACT FILE

Founded: as SC Feeijenoord 19 July 1908. Under new title 17 May 1978.

Colours: Red and white shirts, black shorts.

Stadium: Feyenoord, Olympiaweb 50, 3077 AL Rotterdam, Holland.

President: Jorien van den Herik.

General manager: Fred Blankemeijer.

Football manager: Wim Jansen.

Chief coach: Willem van Hanegem.

Assistant coach: Geert Meyer.

HONOURS

Dutch League: 1924, 1928, 1936, 1938, 1940, 1961, 1962, 1965, 1969, 1971, 1974, 1984, 1993.

Dutch Cup: 1930, 1935, 1965, 1969, 1980, 1984, 1991, 1992.

European Champions Cup: 1970.

UEFA Cup: 1974.

LAST SEASON's Dutch League Championship win by Feyenoord was the first off-the-field success for Willem Van Hanegem, their chief coach.

You might look at his record as a coach and ask: "Why has he been an assistant for so long?"

The answer is simple. Dutch football's rules insist that coaches have the right diploma for their job. And in Holland this stretches from coaching very junior players to coaching top amateurs, and then professionals.

Critics describe this as bureaucratic nonsense in a country where you must have a diploma for virtually everything except walking over the road.

Van Hanegem had no diploma, but was allowed by the Dutch Coaches Union to coach the players, as long as he took the course and passed. He and his assistant Geert Meyer — who learned much of his football as a player with Bristol City — both did.

As a coach, Van Hanegem does not believe in "bureaucratic nonsense" or "academic nonsense" from coaching courses that can concentrate too much on theory.

He is a realist. What matters to him is not in the book, but on the field. When Feyenoord were last champions in 1984, Van Hanegem was on the field. And what a general, with his impeccable left foot!

He knew the game, and he knew how to handle opponents. That was not in any way as a kicking match. Van Hanegem played the game as he believed it should be played. Not many people disagree with him.

In many ways he did not believe in coaching courses, but he followed the rules because he wanted to do all he could for Feyenoord, just as he had done on the field.

British fans know all about the man on the field.

In 1970, 50,000 people saw Feyenoord (including Van Hanegem) win the Champions Cup by beating Celtic 2-1 after extra time. The Dutch team also included Rinus Israel and the current Feyenoord football manager, Wim Jansen.

Celtic — perhaps a trifle over-confident — included Gemmell, Murdoch, McNeill, Johnstone and Lennox.

In 1974 the UEFA Cup Final was a triumph for Feyenoord, but a sad day for football. Feyenoord beat Tottenham in the two-leg final, Van Hanegem scoring the first in the 2-2 draw at White Hart Lane.

The 2-0 home win in the second leg was a sad story. Tottenham "supporters" ran amok on the terraces and on the field, and despite an appeal for calm from Bill Nicholson, the manager, via the tannoy, the troubles continued.

Many would say it was the sign of things to come in English football — not among players, but by so-called fans.

The organisation of the football side of Feyenoord — they also have another company to look after stadium affairs — may appear strange to the British, but not so strange in Holland, as Bobby Robson learned from PSV.

Wim Jansen, another former international, has the title of technical manager. He looks after transfers and organisation of coaching from the youth scheme right to the top. But he is not in the British sense a Brian Clough. Van Hanegem and Meyer not only coach the senior squad. They also run the first and reserve teams in a football sense.

Van Hanegem is still a realist, and forgets sentiment. For example, Johnny Metgod lost the captaincy to John de Wolf, five years his junior, simply because Van Hanegem did not regard Metgod as good enough after two 5-1 defeats in a summer tournament organised by Valencia.

Metgod was told he could never be 100 per cent certain of a first-team place and that De Wolf, who marked Gary Lineker out of the game in the

CHIEF COACH

WILLEM VAN HANEGEM. Born February 20, 1944. Played for Velox, Xerxes/DHS, AZ '67, Chicago Sting, FC Utrecht, plus Feyenoord for two periods, where he finished his playing career. Also a regular member of the Dutch international squad during his best years. As a coach he began his new career in 1983, as assistant at Feyenoord for three years; then on to FC Utrecht, again as assistant, from 1986 to 1989. From October 1990 he was assistant to FC Wageningen for one year before returning to Feyenoord in July 1992. One of the main reasons why Feyenoord won their first Dutch title for nine years last season.

THE SQUAD

Ed DE GOEY. Goalkeeper. Born December 20, 1966. Grew up with Sparta Rotterdam, before being snapped up by the big boys. Now established as Holland's No. 1 keeper — as England well know.

Rob VAN DIJK. Goalkeeper. Born January 15, 1969. Learned his football with Feyenoord and has had very few chances to show his potential.

Ulrich VAN GOBBEL. Defender. Born January 16, 1971 Started with Willem II before moving to Feyenoord and has been included in the Holland squad a couple of times.

Ruud HEUS. Defender. Born February 24, 1961. Has never hit too many headlines, but has played quite a few games, first for AZ '67 and then for Feyenoord.

John METGOD. Defender. Born February 27, 1958. Has been around Europe, starting with Haarlem before moving to AZ '67, Real Madrid, Nottingham Forest and Tottenham Hotspur, before returning to Holland, and Feyenoord. Has played 21 times for Holland.

Errol REFOS. Defender. Born March 19, 1972. Played for two clubs before joining Feyenoord and has four caps for Young Holland.

Orlando TRUSTFULL. Defender. Born August 4, 1970. Via FC Twente to Feyenoord. A very useful player to have on the bench.

John DE WOLF. Defender. Born December 10, 1962. A hard marker, who began with Sparta, moved on to FC Groningen, before joining Feyenoord. Now a regular member of the Dutch national squad.

Peter BOSZ. Midfield. Born November 21, 1963. Hard tackler who was with Vitesse, RKC and Toulon before Feyenoord, and has been capped five times.

Henk FRASER. Midfield. Born July 7, 1966. In his days with Sparta, FC Utrecht, Roda JC, and now Feyenoord he has gained only six Holland caps, but has collected a few more cards from referees.

Dean GORRE. Midfield. Born September 10, 1970. An up-and-coming player who was transferred from troubled club SVV/Dordrecht '90 last summer. Seven Young Holland caps.

Rob MAAS. Midfield. Born December 17,1969. Had a couple of clubs before Feyenoord signed him. Eight caps for Young Holland.

Arnold SCHOLTEN. Midfield. Born December 5, 1962. In and out of the first team, as he was with FC Den Bosch and Ajax.

Rob WITSCHGE. Midfield. Born August 22, 1966. Began with Ajax, moved on to a disastrous period with Saint Etienne before hitting it off with Feyenoord and Holland. Capped 20 times.

Regi BLINKER (left). Forward. Born June 4, 1969. Has spent most of his career with Feyenoord, but although called up for Holland on a couple of occasions, has yet to prove his potential.

Jozsef KIPRICH. Forward. Born September 6, 1963. Hungarian international who joined Feyenoord from Tatabanya. Has scored 30 goals in 61 games for his country.

John VAN LOEN (above). Forward. Born February 4, 1965. Played for FC Utrecht, Roda JC, Anderlecht and Ajax before his transfer to Feyenoord. Seven games for Holland.

Michael Edirin OBIKU. Forward. Born September 24, 1968. A Nigerian who played for Flash Flamingo's (Nigeria) and Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyprus) before he was spotted by Feyenoord.

1991-92 European Cup-winners Cup, was the man to lead the team on the field.

De Wolf may be regarded by some soccer people as a little bit too slow. But Van Hanegem regarded De Wolf as not only a good — and hard — marker, but also a person who could have much influence on the players.

"I had to make a choice to strengthen the defence," he said. "Metgod couldn't do it, so I chose De Wolf in the double role of marker and captain. This was not against Metgod. It was for the good of Feyenoord."

The club have not needed success so much for a long time. For too long they were amateurs compared with Ajax, their great rivals .

Almost everything went wrong, and that led to financial problems. So much so that the club earned themselves a bad name by staging pop concerts during the summer months that did a lot of damage to their turf.

They did it purely for money, but they still did not make enough to go running around the transfer market with a huge chequebook.

Now, thanks to that run to the Cup-winners Cup semi-finals, and their first Dutch League title for nine years, they are back on the right side of their bank manager, despite this season's Euro defeat by Porto.

Aad's route back to the top

AAD DE MOSS, chief coach of PSV (right), who has gained experience with Ajax, Mechelen and Anderlecht, will go the board early in the New Year and tell them exactly what he wants: which players stay . . . and which players can get lost.

Many people thought PSV would play around in the transfer market with the money they received from Romario's move to Barcelona.

In real terms PSV are going through a half season of test, to see what they can do and what is needed. And while De Mos has given up chances of major honours this season, he wants to see PSV back in the European top ranks.

In his mind, going on a spending spree is not the way to fulfil that ambition. So Swedish international Klas Ingesson was signed from Mechelen, Edwin Van Ankeren from RWD Molenbeek, Erik Meijer from MVV Maastricht, plus Tom van Mol from Sparta Rotterdam on loan.

Erwin Koeman, new captain of PSV, has done much to suggest that he will still be wanted, instead of being part of a clear-out of older players.

One "oldie" De Mos certainly wants to keep is ex-Holland goalkeeper,

Hans Van Breukelen, now 37, who has said he wants to retire at the end of this season.

No way, said Aad de Mos. Van Breukelen has done so much for PSV this season that one more year as first choice could do much more.

He is still thinking about the offer but it is generally thought he will agree to play on. Originally, his thoughts concentrated on sitting on the bench as a sort of adviser for the new keeper.

One thing for sure about PSV is that Kees Ploegsma stays for at least one more year as secretary and general manager.

Jacques Ruts, who retired as chairman, felt that Ploegsma should accept some responsibility for poor results, but the annual meeting voted for Ploegsma to stay. Lucky man!

Ruts moved on to become a senior member of the Dutch FA committee. But Ploegsma, in a diplomatic manner, says: "I have had discussions with Ruts and we obviously have different opinions about certain matters. But the members have supported me, and so I shall stay. How long this goes on for depends on how the new board get on.

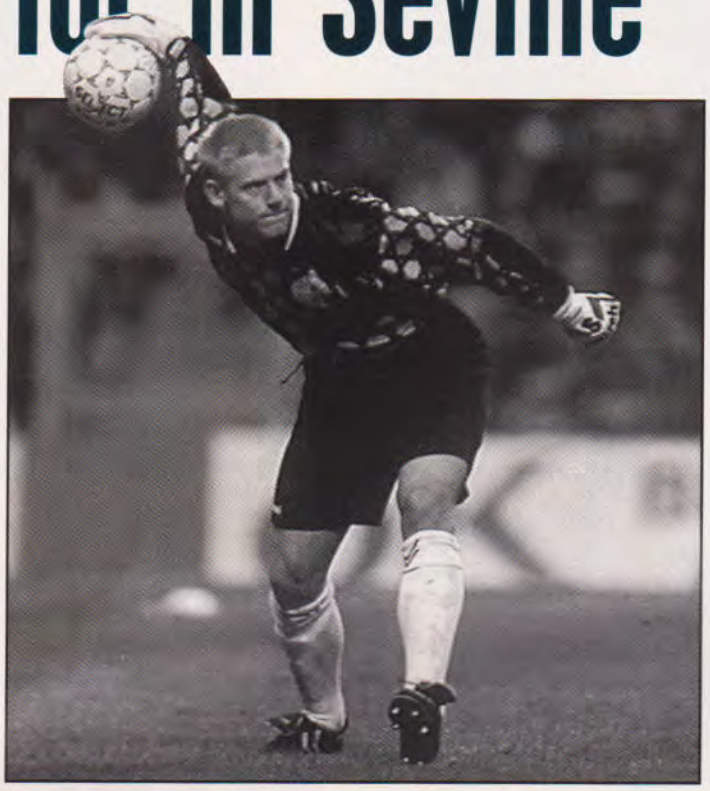
"There is also a question about whether the club will want me to stay on as general manager at the end of this year. It's all in the future. Right now, we will do our best for PSV."

In the summer Ajax signed John Van den Brom, from Vitesse, and he was regarded as the replacement for Dennis Bergkamp.

But Jari Litmanen, a Finnish international on loan from HJK Helsinki, is top scorer in Holland with 10 goals, performing so well that Ajax supporters were beginning to ask: "Van den Brom? Who is he?"

DENMARK.....

All to play for in Seville



PETER SCHMEICHEL has been voted the world's best goalkeeper for the second year running, and Denmark needed his prowess to keep themselves on course for the World Cup Finals in a tough qualifier at home to Northern Ireland.

Manchester United's Schmeichel (above) made fine saves from Phil Gray and Jimmy Quinn, and was lucky to see a good goal from Quinn ruled out for a non-existent foul.

Brian Laudrup got the winning goal nine minutes from time. This means that Denmark, the current European champions, need at least a draw from their final game away to Spain on November 17 to qualify for US '94.

The younger Laudrup said: "It's going to be an incredible night, but it doesn't frighten us.

"We had a similar situation a few years ago where we needed a good result in Romania and we lost 3-1, but I don't think it will happen this time.

"The pressure is on the Spanish in my view, and we are very good at playing counter-attacking football away from home."

His confidence is shared by fellow striker Flemming Povlsen, who returned to the national side after nearly a year out through injury. Povlsen won his 56th cap against Northern Ireland, and along with Laudrup is one of six survivors from the Romanian match of 1989.

He said: "I was pleased with my performance against the Irish, and I'm sure we can beat Spain in Seville. We outplayed them in the home match when I scored and we are a much better side than four years ago."

Silkeborg are the surprise leaders of the Danish Superliga after 12 games, led by battling midfielder Morten Bruun, who also works as a sports journalist.

But the real shock of the season so far is that Brondby are struggling near the foot of the table and in danger of relegation. Despite superb form in the UEFA Cup, where a 4-1 away win to Kuusysi Lahti led to a 7-2 aggregate victory, they have faltered at home.

Champions FC Copenhagen did well to restrict Milan to a single goal in Italy . . . but they had lost at home 6-0.

There was good news, though, for their international midfielder Kim Vilfort. Remember that he scored the second goal against Germany in the European Championship Final last summer after going home in mid-tournament to be with his daughter, who was suffering from leukaemia?

He has just celebrated the birth of another daughter. All Denmark hopes for a similarly happy ending in Seville too.

JIM HOLDEN

SWEDEN.....

Trial by tabloid

TOMAS BROLIN's decision to leave Sweden's national team a few days before a World Cup qualifier shook Swedish football.

Yet something like this had been in the air since Brolin, now with Parma in Italy, announced that he would not talk to the Swedish press.

Some tabloids published stories of Brolin being seen drunk in public during his summer holiday in Sweden (one paper even named the player's favourite drink).

Brolin refused to comment, but it is said that he was deeply offended by the stories.

Claims that Brolin (below) was off form were hard to accept. He scored for Parma in the Cup-winners Cup against Swedish club Degerfors — and some Italian reports rate the Swede as the League's best foreigner after Ruud Gullit.

If Sweden get to the 1994 World Cup finals, Brolin's absence will be a major blow. He is no longer the blue-eyed scorer with a boyish image, but an attacking all-rounder toughened by the Italian game and able to operate in various tactical formations.

But there is always another side of the coin. Torbjorn Nilsson, who spent years in self-imposed international exile, says: "Many people don't understand that when you play professionally abroad, it is not always easy to pull on the national shirt, especially when you are put under such pressure as Tomas is now.

"We should respect his decision, but it is important for Tomas to be totally honest to himself."

The Swedish team did just what was asked of them by beating Finland 3-2 in the all-important World Cup qualifying game in Stockholm. The goals were scored in the first half by Martin Dahlin (2) and debutant Henrik Larsson.

National coach Tommy Svensson was up against it after several established stars dropped out: Brolin, Johnny Ekstrom (who claims he lacks motivation), Jonas Thern (injured), Stefan Pettersson (who refused to travel), Patrik Andersson (suspended) and Joachim Bjorklund (injured).

And midfielder Klas Ingesson had to limp off after only seven minutes!

Sweden still scraped through, thanks to their coloured strikers. Dahlin's father is from Venezuela, Larsson's from Cape Verde.

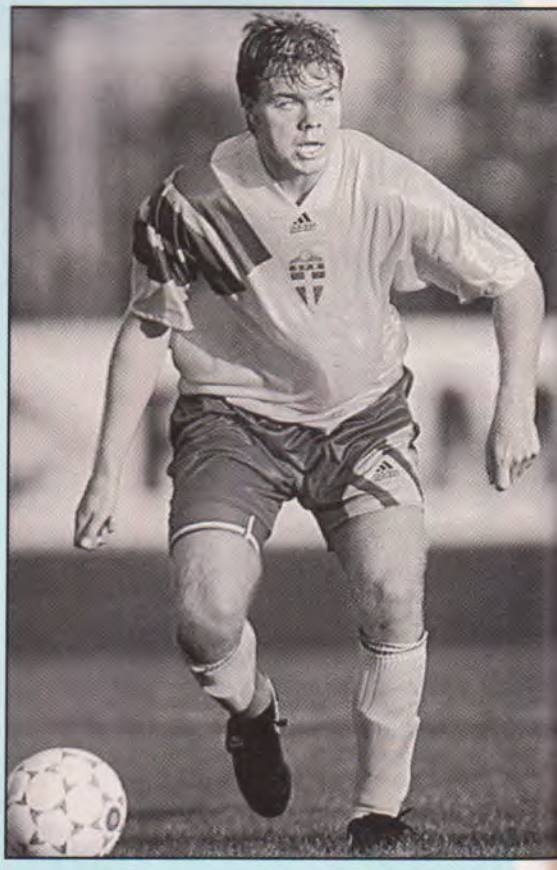
Larsson is the find of the season. He scored 14 times in the League for Helsingborg, and has now signed for Holland's Feyenoord.

"Henrik is inventive, quite fast and always dangerous in the box," says Svensson.

IFK Gothenburg won the champions, as expected, after holding Norrkoping to a goalless draw. Coach Roger Gustafsson has agreed to a new contract.

These are stormy times for Djurgarden. After failing to win promotion, the club tore up the contracts of all their players, and the matter probably will go to court.

PENTTI HIETANEN



FINLAND

Jazz finish on top note

FC JAZZ, from Pori, won the Finnish championship for the first time by beating their closest rivals, MyPa, 6-3 in their last match.

MyPa needed a victory to clinch the title, and showed great spirit to draw level from being two down. Then defensive blunders let Jazz romp home 6-3. Their scorers were Luiz Antonio (2), Miika Juntunen (2), Piracaia and Antti Sumiala.

Jazz previously were known as Porin Pallo-Toverit. Two years ago, when they were promoted to the top level, they decided to change thier name — Pori stages annual jazz and blues festivals — and improve their image by signing four players from Brazil.

Luiz Antonio, Dionisio, Piracaia and Rodrico have done well. Antonio, the League's top scorer in 1992, missed the best part of the summer through a groin injury, but returned to score vital goals in the autumn rounds. The top scorer for Jazz was the 19-year-old Sumiala, with 20.

There are no current Finnish national team players in the line-up, although midfielder Jarmo Alatensio has been capped. He is 30, and played for the club when they were in the Third Division. Now Jazz have ended the domination by Kuusysi Lahti and HJK Helsinki. The last time the title went outside these two clubs was in 1983, when Ilves Tampere won it. Ilves were coached by Jussi Ristimaki — the current coach of Jazz.

"We believe in attacking football, but we don't just talk about it," he says. "We scored 67 goals in the series. Some people say that we have five players who just attack and five who defend, but it isn't that simple. It's a question of having the right blend.

"The Brazilians have been sometimes accused of not defending enough, but I don't see it like that.

"What's wrong about putting on a bit of a show? We don't have that nearly enough in Finland."

So congratulaions to Jazz and commiserations to Kuusysi, thumped 7-2 on aggregate by Brondby in the UEFA Cup.

PENTTI HIETANEN

ISRAEL

World Cup win earns a reprieve

SOCCER fans in Israel are still euphoric after the national team's remarkable 3-2 win over France in Paris.

Although hopes of World Cup qualification had long passed, the team's victory gave them previously-unknown status.

They were treated as heroes, and even coach Shlomo Sharf, who had been notified of his forthcoming replacement, was told that victories over Austria and Finland in the remaining games would earn him a renewed contract.

Then, with the whole country still agog, Maccabi Haifa provided more cause for celebration by becoming the first Israeli club ever to qualify for the second round of a European competition.

They lost 1-0 to Moscow Torpedo in the Cup-winners Cup, but won the home leg 3-1 to earn a place against the holders, Parma of Italy, at the next stage.

Maccabi were then desperately unlucky to lose at home to the only goal, which left them with a virtually impossible task. Even so, they did remarkably well to force a 3-3 draw before losing on penalties.

The club also had been doing well in the domestic programme, trailing leaders Maccabi Tel Aviv by two points after the first seven games.

The leaders had maximum points, but their progress was marred by unseemly incidents in the city derby against Hapoel.

Referee Yaacov Shainer awarded Maccabi a penalty and sent off Hapoel's Yehuda Amar for handling on the goal-line. After mass protests by Hapoel players and officials, Shainer consulted his linesman, then cancelled both the penalty and the dismissal.

Hapoel have not won a derby fixture since 1989, and they went on to lose this one 2-1. Shainer's lack of authority was and still is a furious cause of debate.

AVI MELLER

ISRAEL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mac. Tel Aviv	7	7	0	0	23	3	21
Mac. Haifa	7	6	1	0	17	3	19
Hap. Beersheba	7	6	1	0	13	3	19
Mac. Netanya	7	3	1	3	15	14	10
Hap. Tel Aviv	7	3	0	4	11	11	9
Mac. Herzliya	7	2	3	2	8	8	9
Bet. Jerusalem	7	2	2	3	13	11	2
Ironi Ashdod	7	2	2	3	4	5	8
Hap. Pet Tikva	7	2	2	3	8	10	8
Bnei Yehuda	7	2	2	3	10	13	8
Hap. Holon	7	2	2	3	8	17	8
Hap.Kfar Sava	7	1	2	4	6	13	5
Mac. Pet. Tikva	7	1	0	6	6	13	3
Hap. Haifa	7	0	2	5	4	23	2

MALTA

VALLETTA began the season with three straight victories, Joe "Spider" Zarb scoring six goals.

He hit two in the two pre-season national competitions, and another two against Trabzonspor in the UEFA Cup, to increase his hopes of inducing new national team coach Pietro Ghedin to give him another chance.

Ghedin is expected to drop four players before the two matches in Tunisia and the final World Cup qualifier, against Scotland. Veteran Michael Degiorgio, the Hamrun midfielder, Valletta striker Jesmond Zerafa, Hibernian defender Edwin Camilleri and Hamrun striker Stefan Sultana are expected to make way for new blood.

Champions Floriana dropped their first point of the season in a 0-0 clash against Hamrun, with striker Brian Crawley sent off. Hamrun led the table with seven points from five games, followed by Valletta and Hibernians, who have a game in hand.

New English signing George Lawrence, rejected early in the season by Sliema, has joined Hibs, but Karl Zacchau — last term's top scorer — seems to have lost his touch.

He had to wait 288 minutes for his first goal, a penalty in his side's 2-0 win over Mqabba, who are at the bottom, without a goal.

DOMENICO AQUILINA

MALTA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hamrun Spartans	5	2	3	0	8	2	7
Valletta	3	3	0	0	10	3	6
Hibernians	4	2	2	0	4	1	6
St. Andrew's	5	3	0	2	9	10	6
Floriana	3	2	1	0	4	0	5
Zurrieq	4	2	0	2	4	6	4
Rabat Ajax	4	0	2	2	5	8	2
Sliema Wanderers	4	1	0	3	2	5	2
Birkirkara	4	1	0	3	3	7	2
Mqabba	4	0	0	4	0	6	0

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Linfield	6	6	0	0	14	3	18
Crusaders	6	5	1	0	13	2	16
Portadown	6	5	1	0	13	3	16
Glenavon	6	5	1	0	11	4	16
Cliftonville	6	3	2	1	9	4	11
Glentoran	6	3	1	2	11	6	10
Ballymena Utd	6	3	0	3	14	13	9
Distillery	6	1	3	2	9	10	6
Coleraine	6	1	3	2	8	9	6
Carrick	6	1	2	3	9	14	5
Ballyclare Com	6	1	2	3	6	12	5
Larne	6	1	2	3	5	12	5
Ards	6	1	0	5	6	12	3
Omagh	6	1	0	5	7	14	3
Bangor	6	1	0	5	3	14	3
Newry	6	0	2	4	4	10	2

SWEDEN
Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IFK Gothenburg	26	18	5	3	48	17	59
IFK Norrkoping	26	17	3	6	56	23	54
AIK Stockholm	26	14	4	8	49	43	46
Trelleborg	26	12	6	8	46	39	42
Halmstad	26	11	5	10	50	41	38
Hacken	26	11	4	11	44	49	37
Vastra Frolunda	26	11	4	11	38	45	37
Oster Vaxjo	26	10	6	10	43	34	36
Helsingborg	26	10	6	10	43	46	36
Malmo FF	26	10	5	11	43	38	35
Orebro	26	10	3	13	35	38	33
Degerfors	26	6	5	15	32	54	23
Orgryte	26	5	6	15	26	44	21
Brage	26	4	4	18	26	68	16

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK Athens	8	6	2	0	15	3	20
Panathinaikos	9	6	1	2	19	9	19
Olympiakos	8	5	3	0	15	4	18
Aris	9	5	2	2	19	11	17
Apollon	9	4	4	1	8	7	16
PAOK	9	4	3	2	15	10	15
Doxa Drama	9	4	3	2	10	10	15
Iraklis	9	3	4	2	12	9	13
Athinaikos	9	4	0	5	11	12	12
Larissa	9	3	2	4	11	15	11
Levadiakos	9	3	2	4	7	13	11
Xanthi	9	3	1	5	15	18	10
OFI Crete	8	2	3	3	12	12	9
Edessaikos	9	2	3	4	15	19	9
Kalamaria	9	2	1	6	11	18	7
Panionios	8	2	1	5	9	12	7
Panachaiki	9	2	1	6	12	21	7
Naoussa	9	1	0	8	14	27	3

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ferencvaros	11	7	3	1	22	9	17
Vac FC	11	6	4	1	19	12	16
Debrecen	11	7	1	3	18	12	15
Bekescsaba	11	6	2	3	26	12	14
Kispest-Honved	11	5	3	3	26	13	13
Csepel	11	5	3	3	16	22	13
Raba ETO	11	4	4	3	16	12	12
Ujpesti TE	11	4	2	5	12	13	10
Siofok	11	3	4	4	13	15	10
Vasas	11	4	1	6	16	18	9
Videoton	11	2	5	4	13	16	9
Soproni LC	11	2	4	5	13	19	8
PMSC-Fordan	11	2	4	5	10	20	8
BVSC	11	2	4	5	10	22	8
Haladas	11	2	3	6	12	18	7
MTK	11	1	5	5	13	22	7

Protasov of Panathinaikos

SWITZERLAND

THE MANAGER

Roy HODGSON.
Aged 46 (born August 9, 1947).
Englishman who was on Crystal Palace's books as a youngster but failed to make the grade and played non-league instead with Maidstone. Later Hodgson went to South Africa, playing for Berea Park, where he first met Bob Houghton. In the mid-1970s Houghton helped Hodgson make a coaching start in Europe, in Sweden. He coached Halmstad from 1976 to 1980, spent two years as aide to Houghton at Bristol City, then returned to Sweden with Orebro before trying his luck in Switzerland with Neuchatel Xamax. Hodgson was an instant hit, taking Xamax to league runners-up spot in both 1991 and 1992 . . . when he was appointed as national manager in succession to Uli Stielike. Since taking over, Hodgson's record is: P14, W 9, D3, L2, F28, A11. Only once under Hodgson have Switzerland failed to score, in a 2-0 home defeat by Bulgaria in April last year.

Hodgson's the right

Swiss go from strength to strength

GROUP 1

16.08.92	Estonia v Switzerland	0-6
09.09.92	Switzerland v Scotland	3-1
14.10.92	Italy v Switzerland	2-2
18.11.92	Switzerland v Malta	3-0
31.03.93	Switzerland v Portugal	1-1
17.04.93	Malta v Switzerland	0-2
01.05.93	Switzerland v Italy	1-0
08.09.93	Scotland v Switzerland	1-1
13.10.93	Portugal v Switzerland	1-0
10.11.93	Portugal v Estonia	
17.11.93	Italy v Portugal	
17.11.93	Malta v Scotland	
17.11.93	Switzerland v Estonia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	9	6	2	1	21	7	14
Switzerland	**9**	**5**	**3**	**1**	**19**	**6**	**13**
Portugal	8	5	2	1	15	4	12
Scotland	9	3	3	3	12	13	9
Malta	9	1	1	7	3	21	3
Estonia	8	0	1	7	1	20	1

SWITZERLAND have not reached the finals of a major competition since the 1966 World Cup in England — when they were, not surprisingly, eliminated after a first-round group including West Germany, Spain and Argentina.

Of course, they have Scotland to blame for their last recent failure: it was Scotland who qualified for the 1992 European Championship finals from a qualifying group which included the Swiss. Switzerland are now under a different manager. Englishman Roy Hodgson has taken over from Uli Stielike, the former West German World Cup finalist.

Stielike complained that the Swiss had grown so used to losing big matches that the idea of striving to beat the odds never occured to them. He says it was as if providing the HQ of both world governing body FIFA, in Zurich, and European confederation UEFA, in Bern, mattered more than success out on the pitch.

But all that — even if it were true — can surely no longer be said of Switzerland after they set the pace in the race to reach US '94. Victory over Estonia in an already sold-out Hardturm stadium in Zurich on November 17 will end the long wait and celebrate 130 years of football in the Swiss Cantons.

Indeed, not only were the Swiss importers of football they also were exporters. Their football missionaries played significant roles in the rapid and enthusiastic development of the game in northern Italy, at Genoa and Milan, while it was a Swiss, Hans Gamper, who founded the Spanish and Catalan giants, Barcelona.

The oldest surviving club in Switzerland are St Gallen. But Grasshopper-Club of Zurich are probably the best-known — and not only on account of their picturesque name. Grasshopper were founded by the English in 1886, though it is their neighbours, FC Zurich, who have probably achieved more in Europe with two semi-final appearances in the Champions Cup to their credit.

The Swiss FA was founded in 1895 and a league introduced in 1897. The first official international followed in 1905, a year after Switzerland had become one of FIFA's founding members. Switzerland were one of three candidates recently bidding for the rights to host the 1998 World Cup finals.

Their bid was buried in peremptory fashion: FIFA's executive committee ruled it out of order since it envisaged the use of temporary stands to increase stadia capacity — and temporary stands had already been banned by FIFA in the wake of last year's Corsica stadium disaster before a French Cup semi-final.

Perhaps ironically, in the circumstances, the hosting vote went to the French.

Switzerland will, no doubt, hope to attend as competitors instead.

KEIR RADNEDGE

THE PLAYERS

Stephan LEHMANN.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 30 (born August 15, 1963) with two caps.
Sion. Late starter in terms of top-level soccer. Lehmann did not reach First Division status until Sion bought him from Schaffhausen in 1988. The next year he made his international debut as a substitute in a 1-0 win over Brazil in Basel.

Marco PASCOLO.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 27 (born May 5, 1966) with 12 caps.
Servette. Highly-rated by Hodgson, since he was Xamax's goalkeeper when Hodgson took over in Neuchatel three years ago. In 1991, however, he received a lucrative offer from Servette and Xamax could not keep him. Made his Swiss debut in the 2-0 win over the UAE last year.

Regis ROTHENBUHLER.
Left-back.
Aged 23 (born October 11, 1970) with 10 caps.
Servette. Moved to Geneva this year from Xamax Neuchatel. Can play centre-back but has been used by his country only at left-back.

Alain GEIGER.
Centre back/sweeper.
Aged 33 (born November 5, 1960) with 86 caps.
Sion. One of the best Swiss defenders for years though Geiger has also played in midfield for his country after starting his career as a left-back with Sion. Starred in their 1981 Cup Final over Young Boys before joining Servette, for whom he enjoyed more Cup Final success — scoring the extra-time winner against Lausanne in 1983. Geiger moved to France with Saint-Etienne then returned to Sion three years ago. Off the pitch, he is a connoisseur of Japanese and Italian food.

Dominique HERR.
Defender.
Aged 28 (born October 25, 1965) with 32 caps.
Sion — whom he joined from Lausanne two years ago. Herr had made his name with Basel. He has been a virtul ever-present in the national team since making his debut as a sub in a 2-1 defeat by Portugal in September, 1989.

Christophe OHREL.
Defender.
Aged 25 (born April 7, 1968) with 21 caps.
Servette. Made his debut in a goalless draw at home to Romania in April 1991 in the last European Championship qualifying tournament. Joined Servette from Lausanne last year and is quite among the stars — because he is a keen astronomer.

Patrick SYLVESTRE.
Defender or midfield.
Aged 25 (born September 1, 1968) with six caps.
Lausanne — whom he joined this summer from Lugano. Keen to take the opportunity to claim a regular place in the national team while Marc Hottiger is suspended.

Ciriaco "Ciri" SFORZA.
Midfield or sweeper.
Aged 23 (born March 2, 1970) with 18 caps.
Kaiserslautern (Germany) — whom he joined this summer from Grass-hopper. Sforza is considered a certain long-term fixture in the national team and one of the country's most outstanding discoveries in years. Sforza made his league debut against St Gallen when only 16 and had totalled more than 200 matches before moving to Germany. He starred on his national team debut in a 1-1 draw away to Czecho-slovakia in August, 1991. Kaiserslautern use him as a man-marker on the opposition's key man.

Georges BREGY.
Midfield.
Aged 35 (born January 17, 1958) with 43 caps.
Young Boys (Bern). Veteran who scored in last year's victory over Scotland. Bregy has scored 150 goals in 400 league appearances over the past 14 years since making his First Division debut for Sion. Now in his second spell with Young Boys, Bregy was the league's top scorer in 1984 before moving back into mid-field.

Alain SUTTER.
Midfield.
Aged 25 (born January 22, 1968) with 40 caps.
Nurnberg (Germany). Sutter (above) was originally a devastating striker when Grasshopper introduced him to league action and he was their joint top scorer in 1989-90 with 12 goals. Ever since then it was expected that he would quickly join the Swiss talent drain abroad but it was not until this summer that German club Nurnberg swooped. No relation to fellow cap Beat Sutter.

Christophe BONVIN.
Midfield or forward.
Aged 28 (born April 14, 1965) with 26 caps.
Sion — to whom he has lately returned after four years with Xamax Neuchatel. Bonvin's original claim to fame was that he had scored Sion's decisive third goal when they beat Servette 3-1 in the 1986 Cup Final. He also scored the match-winner in a 1-0 win over Israel in May, 1987, on his international debut. Originally a left winger.

KUBILAY TURKYILMAZ.
Striker.
Aged 26 (born March 4, 1967) with 38 caps.
Galatasaray (Turkey) — whom he joined this summer from Italian cash-crisis club Bologna. Galatasaray paid a Turkish record £1.3million for Turkyilmaz, who was born in Switzerland of "Gastarbeiter" parents. Turkyilmaz made his name with Bellinzona and joined Servette in 1989. He was sold to Bologna in November 1990 for a Swiss record £1.8million. Has been in and out of the team recently because of injury.

Adrian KNUP.
Forward.
Aged 25 (born July 2, 1968) with 30 caps.
Stuttgart (Germany). The German champions became, last year, Knup's third club in four years after spells with Aarau then Luzern. Knup (below) is the most prolific goalscorer in Switzerland's modern national team history. Until being halted by injury in 1991 he enjoyed a run of 12 games which brought 11 goals including a hat-trick against Liechtenstein. He is also the team's penalty expert.

Stephane CHAPUISAT.
Forward.
Aged 24 (born June 28, 1969) with 31 caps.
Borussia Dortmund (Germany). Switzerland's top current player and son of a notoriously hot-headed former Swiss international (Pierre-Albert). Young Chapuisat made his name with Lausanne and was their top scorer in 1988, 1990 and 1991 — even though he left them in the spring of 1991 to join Bayer Uerdingen in Germany. He scored seven goals but could not save them from relegation. Chapuisat did, however, make such a good impression he was immediately bought by Dortmund and has repaid them over the past two seasons with title-challenging campaigns in both the German league and the UEFA Cup (Dortmund were runners-up to Juventus last term).

Beat SUTTER.
Forward or right wing.
Aged 30 (born December 12, 1962) with 60 caps.
Xamax Neuchatel. Made his international debut in a 1-1 draw against Italy in 1983. Began his senior career with FC Basel, transferring to Xamax in 1986 and celebrating a title win at the end of his first season. No relation to Alain Sutter — Beat was brought up in the German region of Switzerland, Alain in the French.

choice

win...win...win...win...win

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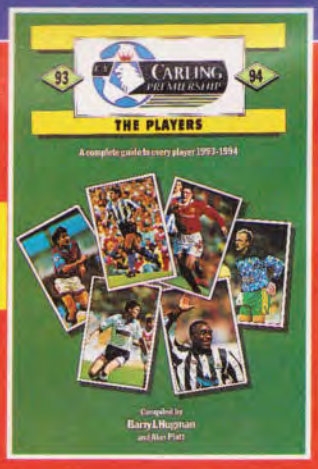

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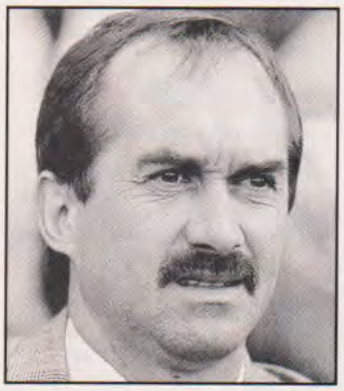
SWITZERLAND.....

'Anybody can beat everybody'



SWISS football now presents a paradox quite rare in the game. At a time when the national side have been performing better than perhaps at any time in modern history, the clubs have steadily plunged into depression.

Not just financially, mainly on account of the recession, but as far as playing standards are concerned.

Three out of the four participating teams were knocked out in the first round of the European competitions, and the sole survivors, Servette, then lost 3-1 on aggregate to Bordeaux. Fifteen years have passed since a Swiss club reached a semi-final.

Now the former German international Uli Stielike, who was Switzerland's national team manager before becoming the boss of Neuchatel Xamax, says: "We have no outstanding teams any more. Anybody can beat everybody."

Stielike (above) points out that in the past nine years there have been seven champions, among them such outsiders as Lucerne, Young Boys and now Aarau, and says: "Unless more money is pumped into Swiss football, we can forget a European semi-final."

In recent years some of the country's best players have gone abroad, where they can earn more money. Rufer, Chapuisat, Knup, Sforza, Sutter, Kozle, Di Matteo and Jakobsen are all badly missed.

Some of them have enriched the national side, who were unbeaten in 12 matches until losing to Portugal, but the ailing clubs are suffering, unable adequately to replace these quality players.

Little wonder that the fans are staying away. The Zurich derby between leaders Grasshopper and second-placed FC Zurich attracted only 10,000 spectators.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

SPOTLIGHT ON

ALAIN GEIGER

Calorie counter

A century of caps in sight

VETERAN Swiss sweeper and spare-time gourmet Alain Geiger makes no secret of the recipe for his country's impressive results in the World Cup '94 qualifiers.

"Past Switzerland teams had lots of good defenders and midfielders but top attackers were rare," says Geiger, who plays for Sion.

"These days we are lucky to have world-class strikers in Stephane Chapuisat and Adrian Knup, plus Alain Sutter wide on the left. They are all outstanding.

"There is an enormous difference when a team have genuine talent up front. The entire side gain confidence.

"Our mental approach is better, too. In previous World Cup qualifying campaigns our form was patchy. We would play brilliantly in one match, then produce an abysmal performance in the next.

"Our manager, Roy Hodgson, is always warning us not to lose concentration, saying we'll only reach US '94 if we are consistent. This time we achieved the objective.

"Hodgson is English and he has encouraged us to adopt a British style of play. This has worked extremely well. We push up on the opposition and harry them into making mistakes.

"I remember beating France in a friendly last year and both Jean-Pierre Papin and Eric Cantona paid us compliments. Praise from such great players proves we are on the right lines."

Certainly Geiger is eminently qualified to judge the Swiss renaissance. Since winning his first full cap 13 years ago, he has appeared 82 times for Switzerland — a figure surpassed only by Heinz Hermann, with 117.

"For a long time Swiss football has not been taken seriously and quite rightly so," says Geiger.

"But during the past two or three years we have improved steadily. Scotland narrowly beat us to a place at the European Championship, and in the group matches for the World Cup we have given Italy, Portugal and the Scots all sorts of problems. "I particularly enjoyed taking three points out of four from Italy. Before we held them 2-2 in Cagliari I saw an Italian TV programme previewing the match. The 'experts' announced the Swiss were nobodies, and one even forecast a 4-0 home win.

"On the pitch, however, we were just as good as they were, if not better."

Alain Geiger was born on November 5, 1960, in Sion, a town in the French-speaking Valais region. He joined his hometown club as a teenager and took full advantage of their excellent youth scheme: Sion's soccer school — founded by ex-Lausanne player Jacques Guhl in 1959 — was the first of its kind in Switzerland.

Sion often blood youngsters at the earliest opportunity, and in April 1978 Geiger made his first-team debut against Grasshopper in Zurich. Not that it was to be an auspicious start. He performed bravely at left-back, but was powerless to prevent his side's 4-1 defeat.

A mauling by the Hoppers could have shaken most debutants. Not Geiger. Shortly afterwards he was moved to the demanding sweeper position and his cool temperament, tactical sense and crisp distribution ensured a permanent spot in the side. Ability to play in midfield was another asset.

He won his first medal in June 1980, when Sion beat Young Boys of Bern 2-1 to lift the Swiss Cup, and five months later national team manager Leon Walker called him up for a World Cup qualifier in England.

Despite Switzerland's 2-1 defeat, an international debut in front of a 70,000 Wembley crowd was a magical experience for the 20-year-old Geiger.

During that match a young centre-back named Andre Egli went on as a sub. Some 13 years on, he and Geiger are still at the heart of their nation's defence.

Geiger went on to Servette of Geneva — scoring the winning goal in their 1984 Cup Final victory over Lausanne — and Neuchatel Xamax before joining French club Saint-Etienne in 1988.

"In the mid-1970s I regularly watched Saint-Etienne's European Cup exploits on television and those memories influenced me to sign for them," he says.

"Unfortunately, when I arrived they were no longer a dominant force.

"Their stadium, training facilities and supporters were wonderful, but we struggled on the field. During my two seasons there we could do no better than 14th and 15th place in the championship."

In 1990 Sion owner and media tycoon Andre Luisier brought Geiger back home to skipper the team, and within 12 months the front pages of the president's newspapers were proclaiming the club's 3-2 Cup Final win against Young Boys.

More glory was to come in the following season, when Sion clinched their first League title.

"It's nice to see that Alain is finally having some success with Switzerland," says his former Sion coach, Argentinian Enzo Trossero.

"He is a great defensive organiser and a marvellous passer of the ball — all in all, a superb libero."

NICK BIDWELL

PRO-FILE

ALAIN GEIGER

SION AND SWITZERLAND

Born: November 5, 1960 in Sion

Previous clubs: Sion, Servette, Neuchatel Xamax, Saint-Etienne.

League debut: April 1976, for Sion v Grasshopper.

International debut: November 1980 v England.

International caps: 82 (2 goals).

HONOURS

Swiss Championship: 1985 *(Servette)*, 1988 *(Neuchatel)*, 1992 *(Sion)*.
Swiss Cup: 1980, 1982 *(Sion)*, 1984 *(Servette)*, 1991 *(Sion)*.

AUSTRIA.....

Admira's title hope

LEADERS Admira/Wacker have been holding on at the top of the First Division, yet they were the only Austrian fallers in the first round fo the European tournaments.

Nobody gave the Austrian teams much chance in the next stage, however, and champions FK Austria and Cup-holders Wacker Innsbruck were both outclassed, against Barcelona and Real Madrid respectively.

Only UEFA contenders Austria Salzburg remain, beating Antwerp 1-0 home and away.

Salzburg report a new talent, 19-year-old striker Martin Amerhauser. Manager Otto Baric says: "He will become an international star soon."

The departure of their Germans, manager Siggi Held and Olaf Marschall to Dresden and Ernst Ogris to Hertha Berlin, has not seriously weakened Admira, who won eight games on the trot.

New team chief Dietmar Constantini has managed to rebuild the side with the help of some old experienced hands and ambitious youngsters.

Now the local supporters in South Vienna are beginning to dream of a first championship for 27 years.

Their only upset, as I write, occurred in Innsbruck against Wacker.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

REP. of IRELAND.....

Bonner seeks Belfast bonanza

ULSTER SAYS NO is a political phrase popular in Irish political circles in recent years, but it may well be transferred to the sporting context on November 17.

That is the day when the Republic need to beat Northern Ireland in Belfast to qualify for the World Cup Finals.

Northern Ireland comprises six of the nine counties of Ulster, and ironically the Republic goalkeeper is an Ulsterman — Packie Bonner from Donegal.

Bonner (above) will be hoping that his colleagues can do something they have never done before — win in Belfast. The Republic were beaten 1-0 at Windsor Park in 1979, and four years ago they drew 0-0.

Manager Jack Charlton who admitted his tactical mistake in playing a 4-5-1 formation against Spain last month, has confirmed that he will play Paul McGrath in defence, but who will be his partner?

Kevin Moran looked uncomfortable before being injured against Spain, and Alan Kerna-ghan had a poor game.

Charlton says he will stay as long as the people want him. But if The Republic do not win in Belfast, Charlton is likely to hand over to a new man.

Last season was quiet on the League of Ireland managerial scene, with only two clubs, Sligo and Longford, making changes. Already this season four have quit or been sacked.

Former national coach Noel King resigned for the second time at Limerick, and is now with Bohemians. Roy Coyle quit Derry and returned to the Irish League, while Turlough O'Connor left Dundalk after eight years in charge.

The biggest shock was the double dismissal at Shelbourne, where Pat Byrne and Jim McLaughlin got the sack.

SEAN CREEDON

PORTUGAL.....

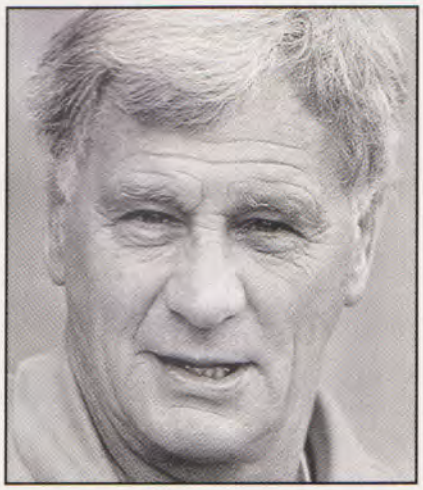
Kids do Robson proud

SPORTING LISBON are showing remarkable strength and consistency in the Portuguese League, topping the table with 15 points from their first eight matches.

They also showed, in the second half of their UEFA Cup game against Celtic in Glasgow, touches reminiscent of the old "Violins" who were one of Europe's outstanding teams in the 1950s.

Not until Benfica rose, under Brazilian manager Otto Gloria, did Sporting have to concede their place as the country's dominant club.

Now, who knows? Bobby Robson's young side — average age 23, including eight of the 1991 World Youth Champions — could be on the way to a place on the heights.



Robson (right) saw his team unluckily beaten by the only goal at Celtic, but they made amends at home when Jorge Cadete scored a goal in each half to snatch victory.

Benfica will be hard to shake off. They are two points behind Sporting as I wrote this, and with men such as Joao Pinto, Isaias, Rui Costa and the Swede, Schwarz, they can be devastating. Paulo Futre is not being missed.

Not surprisingly, the crowds are returning. Benfica had 60,000 for the home leg of the Cup-winners Cup win over CSKA Sofia, although most of the "Socios" were watching the game on TV. Giving free admittance to the school population made the difference. Sporting had nearly 50,000 for their match with Guimaraes, not the greatest of attractions.

Porto, celebrating their 100th birthday, were fourth, and battled to a 1-0 aggregate win over Feyenoord in the Champions Cup, with an heroic defensive display.

Attention now switches to the forthcoming World Cup qualifiers, at home to Estonia and away to Italy. Victory in both would ensure qualification for World Cup '94.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

Nilis of Anderlecht

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	12	10	1	1	37	15	21
Club Brugge	12	6	5	1	20	10	17
Antwerp	12	6	4	2	15	11	16
Seraing	12	6	3	3	20	9	15
Lommel	12	6	3	3	19	16	15
Oostend	12	4	7	1	18	13	15
Charleroi	12	6	2	4	19	14	14
Mechelen	12	3	7	2	16	12	13
Ekeren	12	4	4	4	18	18	12
Beveren	12	3	6	3	14	14	12
Gent	12	2	7	3	17	20	11
FC Liege	12	2	7	3	12	18	11
Standard Liege	12	4	2	6	10	10	10
Lierse	12	1	7	4	10	16	9
Cercle Bruges	12	2	4	6	18	27	8
Waregem	12	2	3	7	13	26	7
Molenbeek	12	2	2	8	11	22	6
Genk	12	0	4	8	15	31	4

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	10	9	1	0	20	5	19
Ajax	10	7	2	1	21	6	16
Roda JC Kerkrade	11	6	2	3	19	15	14
PSV Eindhoven	10	6	3	1	18	7	15
Vitesse Arnhem	11	7	1	3	24	10	15
NAC Breda	11	6	1	4	22	12	13
FC Twente	11	6	1	4	20	13	13
SC Heerenveen	11	5	2	4	10	16	12
Willem II Tilburg	10	5	1	4	15	11	11
VVV Venlo	10	4	1	5	12	20	9
MVV Maastricht	11	2	4	5	16	19	8
Go Ahead Eagles	11	4	2	5	16	14	10
Sparta Rotterdam	11	2	5	4	10	15	9
FC Groningen	10	3	0	7	11	23	6
FC Utrecht	11	3	2	6	15	25	8
FC Volendam	10	2	1	7	13	22	5
RKC Waalwijk	11	1	3	7	11	24	5
Cambuur	10	0	2	8	6	22	2

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shamrock Rov	11	7	2	2	24	8	23
Cork City	11	7	2	2	19	9	23
Bohemians	11	5	4	2	13	5	19
Shelbourne	11	5	3	3	13	13	18
Galway	11	5	3	3	14	15	18
Dundalk	11	4	3	4	13	11	16
Cobh Ramblers	11	3	4	4	10	12	13
St Patrick's Ath	11	2	5	4	12	14	11
Monaghan Utd	11	3	2	6	13	16	11
Drogheda Utd	11	2	4	5	9	18	10
Derry City	11	1	5	5	6	13	8
Limerick	11	1	5	5	10	22	8

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	14	9	3	2	28	9	21
Sion	14	6	6	2	19	9	18
Young Boys	15	6	5	4	24	13	17
Lugano	14	6	4	4	18	17	16
Servette	14	6	4	4	25	25	16
FC Zurich	14	5	5	4	18	10	15
Lausanne	15	6	3	6	17	22	15
Lucerne	14	5	4	5	19	23	14
Neuchatel	14	3	6	5	19	23	12
Aarau	14	5	2	7	16	23	12
Yverdon	15	2	5	8	15	25	9
Kriens	15	2	3	10	13	32	7

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting	8	7	1	0	17	4	15
Benfica	8	5	3	0	20	8	13
Boavista	8	6	1	1	17	6	13
Porto	8	4	3	1	12	4	11
Maritimo	8	5	0	3	13	11	10
Guimaraes	8	3	3	2	5	4	9
Pacos Ferreira	7	3	2	2	5	4	8
Salgueiros	8	4	0	4	9	12	8
Gil Vicente	8	3	2	3	8	11	8
Beira-Mar	8	3	1	4	7	7	7
Belenenses	8	3	1	4	8	11	7
Farense	8	3	0	5	10	16	6
Estrela Amadora	8	1	4	3	7	10	6
Uniao Madeira	8	2	1	5	9	12	5
Braga	8	1	3	4	4	8	5
Estoril	8	1	3	4	6	9	5
Famalicao	8	2	1	5	6	16	5
Setubal	8	1	1	6	6	14	3

TURKEY

Fenerbahce in the money

FENERBAHCE missed this season's European competitions after finishing fifth, but they look likely to be back next season.

A rebuilt side, under new manager Holger Osieck, made a fine start to the season and pulled in enormous revenue.

Their first ten home games, in various pre-season events and then the new campaign, brought nearly £1.5 million through the gates, from an average attendance of nearly 20,000, and the players picked up £2,700 in bonuses in addition to their basic wages.

Fenerbahce were the only team unbeaten after seven matches, with five wins, two draws and 19 goals. Nine of them were scored by Bulent (above), a newcomer from Kocaelispor. He says he is a midfielder, but Osieck's tactics are giving him ample opportunity to attack.

He scored four in a 5-2 defeat of Sarlyer, and another in a tempestuous 2-0 derby match against Galatasaray, who had Arif and Erdal sent off.

Osieck's style, based on the 1990 German World Cup tactics, means that Ridvan and Tanju are out of the squad and seeking a new club.

Both have been outstanding in recent seasons, but Osieck says that they do not fit in with his all-action youngsters. Tanju is too slow, Ridvan too prone to injury.

"When these two lose the ball, they disappear," says Osieck. "I want players who run and fight for 90 minutes."

Trabzonspor faced the possible closure of their ground after crowd trouble in a 2-1 defeat by Galatasaray. A penalty decision led to stone-throwing — one hit a linesman — and players and officials needed police protection as they left the pitch.

In European matches, champions Gala surprised Manchester United, Trabzon lost on away goals to Cagliari in the UEFA Cup, and Besiktas crashed 4-0 at home to Ajax in the Cup-winners Cup, 6-1 overall.

Gala, who were on £25,000 a man for victory, found inspiration at Old Trafford despite going two down early in the match, with new signing Kubilay Turkyilmaz getting two goals in a 3-3 draw.

That proved enough when a goalless struggle followed in Istanbul. Watched by — among others — Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

"We are waiting to be accepted by the European Community, but Galatarasay are already there," she said.

Other good news for Gala is that impressive striker Hakan has settled his differences and agreed a new contract.

HASAN CEMALI

ALBANIA

VIOLENT scenes have marred several matches in the early stages of the season, bringing severe punishment from the Albanian Football Federation.

Laci's 2-0 defeat by Vllaznia was their first at home since they reached the First Division three years ago. Even worse, the incidents led to the ground's closure for one match, and suspensions for three players.

Vladimir Gjoni has been banned for a year, Pellumb Yzeiri and Astrit Xhelo for two months each.

The fallout from the Apolonia-Elbasani fixture was even worse. Apolonia's 4-0 win was achieved by such unruly methods that the AFF penalised them with a six-point deduction, and suspended five players — Romeo Haxhiaf for two years, Arben Mone and Agron Bashilli for a year apiece, Taulant Nuhaf for six months and Afrim Velu for two months.

Elbasani, joint leaders with Vllaznia on ten points after seven games, escaped lightly. Lulzim Elezi and Bashkin Dyrmishi were both banned for two months, and Bujar Muca for four games.

The champions, Partizani, were only a point behind the top two despite being held to a 1-1 draw at home by promoted Beselidhja, who were fourth.

Several teenage players are making progress. Vllaznia goalkeeper Admir Grima is only 19, Edi Martini is an outstanding midfielder at 18, and strikers Auron Miloti and Gentian Cocia are 19.

Martini and Miloti scored in a vital 2-1 victory over Partizani.

GEZIM NUSHI

ROMANIA

Steaua collapse

THE 2-1 victory over Belgium meant winner takes all in Romania's final World Cup qualifier with Wales.

New manager Anghel Iordanescu will have learned little from the friendly with Israel, played on Steaua's ground without foreign-based performers who almost certainly will fill seven or eight of the starting slots in Cardiff.

Israel were beaten 1-0, through a goal by Panduru, formerly of CSM Resita and now of champions Steaua. This did not get him in to the team to face Belgium, and they had to thank his team-mate Dumitrescu (right) for an 84th-minute winner.

With four countries still in contention Romania have it in their own hands to go through.

With Dinamo and Rapid having taken their UEFA Cup leave in round one, it was left to Steaua and Univ Craiova to fly the flag, in both cases in France. They suffered 4-2 and 6-0 defeats by Monaco and Paris SG respectively.

Steaua were one up in the away

GREECE

Daniel comes to judgement

HE does not look Greek nor is his name Greek. But Daniel Batista, Portuguese-born star of Olympiakos, may soon be wearing the colours of the Greek national team.

He gained Greek nationality earlier this month, and after stints with Ethnikos and AEK Athens, he appears to have found a home at Olympiakos and Greece in general.

Now Greek national coach Alketas Panagoulias, who is leading Greece into the World Cup for the first time, may be looking to add Batista to the squad. He would make history as the first black man to play for the Greek side.

Panagoulias, meanwhile, tried to become the first coach to be a Member of Parliament, but his attempt failed in the general elections. He failed by a wide margin under the ticket of the losing New Democracy Party.

"This was an experiment, and the people spoke. Maybe I'll try another time," said Panagoulias.

The new socialist PASOK government pledged to address the institutional and financial problems faced by professional soccer teams to help restore the sport.

The new Sports Undersecretary, George Lianis, reiterated the government's commitment, and added that institutional changes were necessary in the status of soccer teams, which he expected would gradually come under the Commerce Ministry's jurisdiction.

A former Apollon player, Christos Economou, has been arrested for possession of counterfeit 5,000 drachma notes.

Pele, in Greece on a promotional stint, said: "The only thing more that I can ask from God is for Greece and the United States to play in next year's World Cup final."

Not always hidden . . . Daniel Batista behind Gianluigi Lentini of Milan.

Will Pele say the same in all the places he visits, or did he really mean what he said? If so, what will be the reaction in Brazil?

The natives are restless at Panathinaikos. After the embarrassing 4-1 defeat by Bayer Leverkusen at the Olympic Stadium, in front of close to 70,000 fans, many supporters are asking for officials to find better players.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

HUNGARY

UNSUNG Debrecen VSC, champions of the Second Division (East) last season, displaced leaders Ferencvaros, even if only for one round of the autumn season, with a fine performance.

They beat defending champions Kispest-Honved 2-1 at home in the eighth round. No matter that in their next match they suffered their first defeat — 1-0 at lowly Siofok.

They have had the spectators talking and opponents trembling.

Tamas Sandor, a 19-year-old with only two First Division appearances before this season, was brilliant in the Kispest game, and not just because he scored both goals.

He used his height to test the champions in the air, had the mobility and physical strength when on the ball to ensure attacks did not lose their momentum, and sensed how best to utilise the qualities of his colleagues.

Home-grown Sandor leads the scorers with eight goals.

Debrecen's manager, Lajos Garamvolgi, is only 41 and new to the First Division, and the club have a collection of foreigners, five Romanians and two Ukrainians, led by old-head Viktor Gracsov.

Honved are without broken-leg

game before Monaco had Thuram sent off, but Ikpeba and Klinsmann each scored twice in a remarkable victory.

In the championship Univ trail Steaua by a point, with a revitalised UT Arad and three other clubs on 12.

Competition for a UEFA Cup place is certainly hotting up as the season progresses.

Rapid are having to struggle near the bottom, where Otelul Galati and Poli Timisoara look set for a long battle to avoid the drop.

BOB VAUGHAN

BULGARIA.....

Botev's bar to progress

THE upswing in Bulgarian football fortunes continued with the win over Austria at the Vasily Levski, where "Schneckerl" Prohaska's weak side were seldom in the hunt.

Only 15,000 were present to see Penev's two goals, Stoichkov's penalty and Letchkov's 87th-minute score put Bulgaria in third spot in Group Six, with all to play for as a result of Sweden's victory over Finland and the French fall against Israel.

The situation is comparable with three decades ago when, after a French victory in Paris and a Bulgarian success at home against Bernard & Co, France lost a play-off in San Siro to a shot by Yakimov deflected by Lerond into his own goal.

This time the Bulgarians must win, and preparation for the decider was not helped by a rumpus in domestic football. Champions Levski, with eight of the national squad, had to be on their way to Plovdiv for a League game almost as they left the dressing room having accounted for the Austrians.

Tired legs resulted in a 1-0 defeat by Botev, while second-placed CSKA were beating Chernomorets 4-1 in Sofia and closing the gap to two points.

Levski had asked the BFU to postpone the game in view of forthcoming international and European commitments but Botev would not have it.

Andrej Jeliaskov, the Levski manager, then threatened to withdraw his players from all international games, including the crucial World Cup tie in Paris.

Players sent in written confirmation of their club's decision and BFU president Valentin Mihov, formerly the big chief of CSKA, went on television to confront Levski president Tomas Levchis in an abortive attempt to solve the difficulties.

A subsequent meeting of all parties fortunately defused the situation and enabled Bulgaria to be at full strength in Paris. Whether the number of matches or the dispute had an effect on Levski's Champions Cup chances is difficult to assess, but a 2-2 home draw with Werder Bremen was disappointing. Levski did much better away and were unlucky to lose their chance of big money in the Champions League by the only goal.

CSKA's hopes looked promising for much of the second half in the Cup-winners Cup, but Benfica's last-minute goal meant a 3-1 defeat and elimination followed with another 3-1 reverse.

Only Botev seem to have the remotest chance of catching the current champions or CSKA, though while the latter's Andanov keeps banging in the goals and colleague Ciric also stays on target it will not be a one-horse race.

At the foot of the table, too, the candidates are few in number. With a third of the season gone, promoted Cherno More are letting in goals at an alarming rate and have yet to win, while Beroe Stara Zagora are slightly less deep in the mire.

BOB VAUGHAN

Debrecen cause a surprise

victim Istvan Pisont (left) and have sold 21-year-old Gabor Halmai to Belgium's Ekeren for £160,000.

The team's concentration on the European games with Manchester United took much out of a young squad, and seemed to drain their strength.

They managed only a 0-0 draw at home to strugglers BVSC — after a disciplined effort in Manchester which restricted United to pot-shots from outside the penalty area and two headed goals, from set-pieces, by Steve Bruce.

Now the club may lose Finnish coach-manager Martti Kuusela, who says: "The board don't trust me. That is why I don't feel so happy here. The players trust me. I like them. I try my best. I sacrifice my family life — they are in Finland — and I do everything but still I don't feel well."

This sad situation sets a new poser for Louis de Vries, the Belgian with a majority shareholding in Honved, just when the club are setting an example, despite difficulties with the national association.

"Hungarians and foreigners see something going, in organisation, in marketing, in selling the club, and that gives me the strength to continue," he says.

But, of the decision by Jozsef Verebes, the national team manager, to disregard foreign-based players (many of whom have de Vries as their agent) for the international against Russia, he answers:

"It is absolutely absurd that someone who has to select the best players for a national team would refuse to take those who are playing abroad.

"Who can you convince of your sound judgment if you leave out your best available players?"

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK Athens	8	6	2	0	15	3	20
Panathinaikos	9	6	1	2	19	9	19
Olympiakos	8	5	3	0	15	4	18
Aris	9	5	2	2	19	11	17
Apollon	9	4	4	1	8	7	16
PAOK	9	4	3	2	15	10	15
Doxa Drama	9	4	3	2	10	10	15
Iraklis	9	3	4	2	12	9	13
Athinaikos	9	4	0	5	11	12	12
Larissa	9	3	2	4	11	15	11
Levadiakos	9	3	2	4	7	13	11
Xanthi	9	3	1	5	15	18	10
OFI Crete	8	2	3	3	12	12	9
Edessaikos	9	2	3	4	15	19	9
Kalamaria	9	2	1	6	11	18	7
Panionios	8	2	1	5	9	12	7
Panachaiki	9	2	1	6	12	21	7
Naoussa	9	1	0	8	14	27	3

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	10	8	1	1	22	5	25
CSKA	11	7	2	2	26	7	23
Botev	10	5	3	2	16	10	18
Lokomotiv Sofia	11	5	2	4	14	9	17
Lokomotiv Plovdiv	10	5	1	4	13	12	16
Shumen	10	4	3	3	19	14	15
Lokomotiv G.O.	10	4	3	3	13	12	15
Slavia	10	4	3	3	11	11	15
Dobrudja	10	4	2	4	18	17	14
Etur	10	3	3	4	17	16	12
Chernomorets	10	3	2	5	15	18	11
Spartak	11	3	2	6	11	26	11
Pirin	11	2	4	5	10	16	10
Beroe	10	2	2	6	8	17	8
Cherno More	10	0	3	7	7	30	3

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ferencvaros	11	7	3	1	22	9	17
Vac FC	11	6	4	1	19	12	16
Debrecen	11	7	1	3	18	12	15
Bekescsaba	11	6	2	3	26	12	14
Kispest-Honved	11	5	3	3	26	13	13
Csepel	11	5	3	3	16	22	13
Raba ETO	11	4	4	3	16	12	12
Ujpesti TE	11	4	2	5	12	13	10
Siofok	11	3	4	4	13	15	10
Vasas	11	4	1	6	16	18	9
Videoton	11	2	5	4	13	16	9
Soproni LC	11	2	4	5	13	19	8
PMSC-Fordan	11	2	4	5	10	20	8
BVSC	11	2	4	5	10	22	8
Haladas	11	2	3	6	12	18	7
MTK	11	1	5	5	13	22	7

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	10	7	2	1	17	3	16
Univ Craiova	11	6	3	2	12	15	15
Petrolul	10	5	2	3	12	9	12
Farul	11	5	2	4	14	12	12
Sportul	11	5	2	4	14	12	12
UTA	10	5	2	3	12	12	12
Inter	10	4	3	3	12	11	11
Gloria	10	5	1	4	13	16	11
Dinamo	10	4	2	4	16	14	10
Progresul	11	5	0	6	15	13	10
FC Brasov	11	4	2	5	11	10	10
Dacia	11	3	4	4	11	11	10
Rapid	11	4	2	5	9	11	10
Electroputere	11	4	1	6	11	11	9
Otelul	11	4	1	6	10	16	9
Univ Cluj	11	2	4	5	13	17	8
Poli Timisoara	11	4	0	7	12	23	8
Ceahlaul	11	2	3	6	9	20	7

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moscow Spartak	31	19	10	2	75	17	48
Rotor Volgograd	31	15	7	9	48	33	37
Moscow Torpedo	31	15	7	9	32	35	37
Moscow Dynamo	31	14	9	8	58	37	37
Lok. Moscow	31	13	9	9	41	26	35
Sptk Vladikavkaz	31	14	6	11	44	42	34
Tekstilshchik	31	12	10	9	38	32	34
Uralmash	32	14	4	14	46	51	32
KamAZ	32	12	6	14	44	47	30
CSKA Moscow	31	12	4	15	41	41	28
Dyn. Stavropol	31	10	8	13	35	41	28
Zhemchuzhina	31	9	10	12	46	56	28
Luch Vladivostok	31	10	7	14	28	50	27
Krylya Sovetov	31	8	11	12	34	44	27
Rostselmash	31	8	11	12	34	46	27
Okean Nakhodka	31	9	8	14	24	33	26
Lok. N.N.	31	10	5	16	30	47	25
Asmaral Moscow	31	7	6	18	22	42	20

MACEDONIA.....

Vardar by a mile

FEW people were surprised at Vardar Skopje's success in winning the first Macedonian League championship.

They had finished sixth in the last Yugoslav national event, when they were unbeaten at home, and had strength and experience that no other club in the new organisation could match.

The margin of their success, however, was quite extraordinary. Vardar won 27 of their 34 League games and drew the other seven, for a total of 61 points that was 21 more than the runners-up, Sileks, could manage.

Vardar scored 119 goals, 46 more than Sileks obtained, and conceded only 16, which was five below the next-lowest figure, by Balkan Streda, who were third despite scoring only 36 times.

Pelister Bitolja, the only other Macedonian club from the last Yugoslav League, finished fourth and reached the Cup Final, where they did well to hold Vardar to a single goal as the Skopje club completed a memorable double.

VICTOR PLATICEC

MACEDONIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 1992/93

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vardar	34	27	7	0	119	16	61
Sileks	34	17	6	11	73	50	40
Balkan St	23	15	10	9	36	21	40
Pelister	34	14	8	12	47	36	36
Sasa	34	14	8	12	41	44	36
Sloga Jug	34	13	8	13	46	37	34
Tikves	34	12	10	12	52	51	34
Osogovo	34	13	8	13	39	41	34
Rudar	34	15	4	15	33	47	34
Belasica	34	12	10	12	41	44	34
Pobeda Vit	34	14	5	15	51	48	33
Borec	34	12	8	14	42	43	32
E.C.U.	34	13	6	15	37	53	32
Macedonia	34	10	12	12	31	51	32
Metalurg	34	12	7	15	37	42	31
Bregalnica	34	11	8	15	38	45	30
Teteks	34	12	6	16	35	56	30
Vardarski	34	2	5	27	16	100	9

Going out . . . Slovan concede the opening goal to Aston Villa's Dalian Atkinson at Villa Park.

CZECH REPUBLIC....

Dukla in danger

WITH a third of the season played in the new Czech League, Sparta are not having to battle with their traditional rivals Slavia or Bohemians but with a revised Banik team and, "upstarts" Ceske Budejovice, who were not counted among the challengers when the championship got under way.

Bohemians have not been able to maintain their promising early-season form after narrowly and embarrassingly retaining top status in a summer play off, their 2-0 reverse at home to Banik sending them down to sixth place.

The days of First League football finally look numbered for Dukla. A 7-0 defeat across town in Zizkov, previously on seven points from nine games, looks like the last straw and with only two points from the first 20 they seem bound for the drop.

Only 9,627 spectators attended their first four home games, one drawn and three lost. Six second-half Viktonia goals at the tiny ground in Zizkov meant a wretched October for Dukla.

Sparta left themselves the mighty task of winning at the Parc Astrid after losing to Anderlecht before 26,000 at the Letna in the Champions Cup.

Nilis, cautioned in the first half, scored the only goal 16 minutes from the end, and Anderlecht won the return with more to spare, 4-2.

The Representation of Czechs and Slovaks also have to go to Brussels, two weeks after the Anderlecht return, needing to beat Belgium to go to US '94.

Defeat or a draw means no tickets for the World Cup and that the match would prove to be the last in the 73-year history of Czecho-Slovak international soccer.

National coaches for separate Czech and Slovak national teams are now in office.

Dusan Uhrin (above), formerly in charge at Sparta after astonishing success at the tiny Cheb club, has been assisting Vaclav Jezek and will inherit more of the two-nation squad than his Slovak counterpart, Jozsef Venglos, once the combined team splits up.

BOB VAUGHAN

SLOVAK REPUBLIC...

Winter's tale of difficulty

INTERNATIONAL football has to wait until the World Cup final qualifiers are known.

In the meantime, the SFZ, one of FIFA's newly affiliated Federations, have been looking for friendly fixtures as new manager Jozef Venglos prepares to build a team to tread the path to England in 1996.

Slovaks have been in the minority in the last all Czecho-Slovak squad, but Venglos will have Dubovsky, at least, for competitive matches, up front, the speedy Moravcik and a competent goalkeeper in Molnar.

Then he has to look at the Slovan side, currently leading the Slovak League by three points despite a 4-3 away defeat by second-placed DAC.

Dusan Galis, a disappointed man at Villa Park after Slovan's narrow UEFA Cup defeat, was not happy about the leaks at the back against DAC and will be talking to club officials about the professionalism he wants.

There is little chance of a club other than Slovan or DAC taking the first peacetime Slovak title, though generally there is concern about the League's viability. Gates on the tenth weekend were all under 4,000, except in Dunajska Streda, as low as 845 at Lok. Kosice and down to 2,190 at Inter, now in third place.

Home defeat, 2-0 by an improving Trnava, was not expected, and manager Jozef Adamec will not have been amused by his old club's visit.

Inter will be aiming to fight off challengers Presov, 1-0 winners over FC Kosice, for the UEFA Cup spot as the winter break begins after 16 weeks of the championship.

The Cup Finalists also will be known by then, though the 1994 Final venue and date still have to be decided.

The first-round elimination of Slovan (from the Champions Cup), DAC Dunajska Streda (UEFA Cup) and FC Kosice (Cup-winners Cup) will give managers something to think about over the course of the three months without League and Cup football.

Some may opt for tours and friendlies abroad but finance is a problem for all, except possibly Slovan.

BOB VAUGHAN

RUSSIA.....

Spartak's record margin

MOSCOW SPARTAK proved again that they have no real rivals in the Russian League, winning the title with four rounds to spare.

This has never happened so early in the whole history of the Soviet Union or Russian League. With 14 national titles to their credit, Spartak top the list of the country's most distinguished clubs.

Almost simultaneously Spartak made an important step on the European scene, with a 5-1 away win against Lech Poznan of Poland making the second leg a formality. A 2-1 home win clinched a place in the money-spinning Champions League.

Oleg Romantsev (left) has led Spartak to the League title three times and the National Cup twice in five years, and managed to find good replacements for players who moved during the season.

National keeper Stanislav Cherchesov, now with Dynamo Dresden, was replaced by Ukrainian Alexander Pomazun, formerly of Dnepr Dnepropetrovsk.

When striker Dmitri Radchenko and defender Dmitri Popov signed contracts with Racing Santander, their departure did not affect Spartak's performance. Romantsev appeared to have quite a few aces up his sleeve.

Nikolai Pisarev was especially good at the end of the season. He moved from his usual midfield position to be spearhead of Spartak's attacks and instantly started scoring: his Papin-style acrobatic goal against Lech was superb.

The forthcoming Champions League games, however, will be a farewell party for the great Spartak of the early nineties. Most players have had foreign offers, and Romantsev is considering one from a Spanish club.

The next League championship will feature 16 teams instead of 18. The step towards making the tournament a bit shorter was supported by most coaches and players.

At present several rounds of the championship, which starts in early March, have to be played indoors, while at the end players often have to battle with November snow.

In another move to make life easier for players an underground heating system was at long last installed at Moscow's Olympic Stadium.

VICTOR GUSEV

UKRAINE.....

Kiev Dynamo set the pace

MANY PEOPLE in soccer say that it is harder to defend a championship than to win it in the first place.

To refute the statement, Kiev Dynamo are confidently moving to their second successive title. They continue to set the pace, and opened a four-point lead.

Chernomorets continue to progress and now are second, thanks mainly to a fine technician and striker, Gusseinov, who is the country's top scorer with nine goals.

Metallist, beaten 2-0 by newcomers Niva Vinnitsa, stayed bottom of the table. They have lost several key players, including internationals Prudius and Prizetkov to Kiev Dynamo and keeper Pomazun to Mosocw Spartak.

The national team, with Euro '96 qualifying games in mind, made a trip to the United States and Mexico. Victories, by 2-1 and 1-0, over the US and a 2-1 defeat in Mexico gave a good indication of Ukraine's current position in international football, and overall provided more reasons for optimism than pessimism.

Head coach Basilevitch has found a fine playmaker in Gennady Litovchenko (above), formerly with Kiev Dynamo.

He is the first top player to go back to the country since the mass exodus of footballers after the break up of the Soviet Union two years ago.

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY

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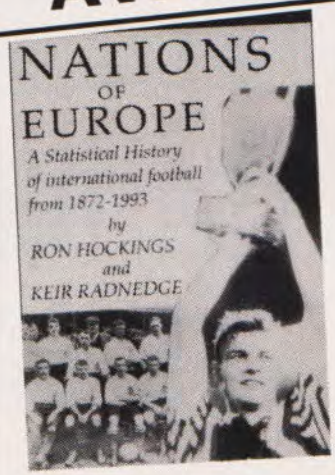

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A Century of World Football

PART THREE

1945-56

BY MIKE LANGLEY

The braves come back to a changing scene

EVERYBODY knows of John Charles, renowned while only 17 as both a majestic centre-half and a towering centre-forward destined to star for Leeds United, Juventus and Wales.

Big John is unchallenged as the finest dual-purpose footballer yet born in the British Isles — but Ray Iggleden, his inside-left partner in some 150 League matches, is more interesting for a survey of soccer picking up the pieces after five years of blitz and blackout.

Iggleden signed for Leicester City in 1942 and then joined the Royal Marines, where he discovered that "Professional Footballer" on his service papers was no asset. For hundreds of uniformed players, it meant immediate transfer into the non-combatant dreariness of the Physical Training Instructors.

Iggleden says: "I wanted to escape being always stuck in RM bases playing football for the C-in-C's staff. I wanted to be in the war."

So he volunteered for the SAS and joined the Aegean Sea raiders of the Special Boat Squadron, whose leaders included the fearless Dane, Anders Lassen — killed near Venice in April, 1945, while winning the Special Air Service Regiment's only VC.

Iggleden symbolises the many Football League players (75 killed in action) willing to risk their lives in pursuit of honours that can't be won on a pitch.

Bill Jones of Liverpool, grandfather of England's Rob Jones, won the Military Medal. So did his fellow Anfield defender, Eddie Spicer, who became a captain in the Royal Marine Commandos, and Willie Thornton, a Rangers and Scotland inside-forward.

Ian McPherson of Rangers and Arsenal flew Mosquito fighter-bombers and won the Distinguished Flying Cross twice.

Birmingham City forward Don Dorman was wounded twice as a paratrooper at Arnhem, West Ham centre-half Dick Walker made 60 parachute jumps, and Coventry goalkeeper Alf Wood specialised in unarmed combat.

Winger Dennis Woodhead played 300 League games, mostly for Sheffield Wednesday, after surviving 50 bombing missions in Lancasters over Germany.

Little Ernie Taylor served in submarines before becoming the only postwar player to appear in FA Cup Finals with three clubs, and Reg Allen, the QPR and Manchester United goalkeeper, was an early SAS trooper recaptured by the Germans in North Africa after throwing himself from a prison train.

As these brave players came home, the clubs tidied their grounds for a boom that brought 41,271,414 spectators through the turnstiles in season 1948-49.

Swindon dismantled the huts of a prisoner-of-war camp. Spurs ceased reserving their East Stand as a mortuary for bomb victims — and Arsenal, lodgers at White Hart Lane through the hostilities, went home to a Highbury bombed behind the Clock End but no longer needed by Air Raid Precautions.

Manchester United, blitzed into ruins and their main stand destroyed, stayed on awhile at neighbouring Maine Road — a venue they were still using 11 years later for night matches in their first European Cup.

United's entry — in defiance of our stick-in-the-mud League — took them to the semi-finals and elimination under Old Trafford's new lights by Real Madrid, with Alfredo Di Stefano, Paco Gento and man-of-the-match Raymond Kopa all displaying skill that let daylight at last into the smugness of English club football.

As Dennis Viollet said: "One game in the European Cup was worth 20 in the League."

The crowd likewise acknowledged that Real's 5-3 aggregate had been achieved almost coasting in the end against hall-of-fame opposition — the full Busby Babes with Roger Byrne as captain, Duncan Edwards, Eddie Colman, Tommy Taylor and Bobby Charlton.

Real Madrid, going on to win their second European Cup and with Ferenc Puskas yet to come, were impossible to ignore — even by those blinkered Brits who had brushed aside previous portents from abroad with assertions that Moscow Dynamo, Honved, even Uruguay, Brazil, Austria and Hungary "wouldn't finish in the top six of our League!"

No touring club ever outdid the impact of Moscow Dynamo in November, 1945, when their four matches attracted 269,600 spectators. They drew 3-3 at Chelsea, destroyed Cardiff 10-1, and, in their final match before a 90,000 crowd, drew 2-2 against Rangers.

But it's the third fixture that lives on — a 4-3 victory at foggy, lightless White Hart Lane against an Arsenal XI including England's two Stanleys, Matthews and Mortensen.

Dynamo were short-passing runners off the ball and bossed from the back by colourful keeper "Tiger" Khomich. They used only 14 players in the tour but were suspected by the Arsenal crowd of trying to field all of them at once.

A break in the fog exposed an extra Russian in the side — and a long delay while finding a replacement for Arsenal's injured keeper revealed the Dynamos' distaste for tea. They drank vodka!

The shock from the Dynamos wore off once England — under Walter Winterbottom, their first full-time manager — got going.

Ireland were whipped 7-2 in Belfast, Holland 8-2 at Huddersfield, France 3-0 at Highbury, Belgium 5-2 in Brussels.

Highbury staged the victories over Sweden (4-2) and Switzerland (6-0). In between, that most gifted of English attacks — Matthews, Mortensen, Tommy Lawton, Wilf Mannion and Tom Finney — took itself to Turin in 1948 and crushed Italy's world champs 4-0.

A year earlier, the same five had gone to Lisbon — capital of a neutral country untouched by war — and overwhelmed Portugal 10-0. Lawton and Mortensen scored four each, Finney and Matthews one apiece. Such results explain England's "Who'll be second?" arrogance in 1950 when leaving for Brazil and their first World

A star even in his later years...Tommy Lawton playing for Brentford in 1952.

A hero with club and country... Tom Finney of Preston.

Cup. Never did they imagine returning early as laughing-stocks after a scoreline considered so impossible that one London newspaper decided the Reuters flash from the isolated mining town of Belo Horizonte (US 1, England 0) was a misprint. So they ran the headline: US 1, England 10.

The pitch was narrow, rutted, stony. Rats ran free in the dressing rooms, so England changed elsewhere. The press box had one phone. But Alf Ramsey, Billy Wright, Finney, Matthews, Mortensen and Jimmy Mullen of Wolves were on the field against 100-1 no-hopers whose star was a free transfer from Wrexham, Eddie McIlvenny.

In the 37th minute, the American-Haitian striker Joe Gaetjens seemed to be trying to get out of the way of a cross-cum-clearance when it smacked his left ear and was diverted past the great Wolves keeper, Bert Williams.

Finney, Mortensen, Mullen hit America's woodwork; a Mullen header seemed to cross the line and Mortensen was awarded only a free-kick when rugby-tackled in the box.

Truly one of those days but soon to be overtaken as a sensation when Brazil, who had opened the tournament to a 21-gun salute, drew the world record crowd of 199,854 to Maracana to see them lift the Jules Rimet trophy by disposing of Uruguay.

"How can we lose?", asked the Cariocas, forgetting that little Uruguay had beaten them once already that year. They found out in the second half when Juan Schiaffino headed an equaliser and right-winger Alcide Ghiggia beat his man yet again and slotted the winner inside the near post.

It had been a triumph for Ghiggia, for left-half Victor Andrade and, above all, for 34-year-old Obdulio Varela. Uruguay's inspiring captain and attacking centre-half.

The slender Schiaffino gave Scotland a taste of his genius at Basle in the 1954 World Cup when Uruguay won 7-0 and Tommy Docherty said: "He's the best inside-forward I've faced."

More memorably, The Doc described one of his distressed defenders as suffering from "a sun-burnt tongue."

This was a depressing World Cup debut for the Scots, depleted by the illness of Hibernian centre-forward Lawrie Reilly and the refusal of Rangers to release giant centre-half George Young. They finished bottom of their opening group.

Uruguay then sent England home with four goals that included one each by Schiaffino and Varela, who beat Gil Merrick from outside the box. Nat Lofthouse and Tom Finney scored for an England side playing quite brightly despite the trauma of a 7-1 debacle in Budapest a month earlier.

Puskas naturally, his gypsy partner Sandor Kocsis and the original deep centre-forward, Nandor Hidegkuti, contributed five of the goals in this heaviest-ever defeat for England.

The score, when combined with that dazzling 6-3 victory at Wembley six months previously, confirmed the Hungarians as the finest attacking machine seen up to then — and even to this day.

The Irish Republic's claim to be the first foreign winners in England — thanks to a 2-0 victory at Goodison Park in 1949 — was never accepted by English supporters. Nine of the team played in the Football League and Peter Farrell, scorer of the second goal, was playing on his own Everton ground.

But there was no question of Hungary's entitlement to a record that had survived precariously a month earlier — in October, 1953 — when Alf Ramsey's late penalty earned a 4-4 draw against a FIFA XI.

Austria provided three players, including attacking centre-half Ernst "Clockwork" Ocwirk, who had been on the losing side in 1952 when Lofthouse became the "Lion of Vienna".

I was there in the Russian Zone of the occupied Austrian capital when Ocwirk and his defenders couldn't get back fast enough as Merrick threw out a corner to Finney, whose through ball sent Lofthouse running from inside his own half to score in that micro-second before the desperate keeper crashed into him.

Austria the Wunderteam 2, England 3. Something to celebrate in those early Fifties when Real Madrid, Hungary, Uruguay, the Irish and even a job lot of immigrant Yanks kept reminding us that the old masters ruled no longer!

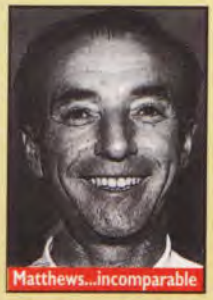
Victory parade after a freak winner...Joe Gaetjens at Belo Horizonte.

Nearly perfect...

TOMMY LAWTON, England's first-choice centre-forward from 1938 at Everton to 1948, when he was playing in the Third Division for Notts County.

Bob Paisley of Liverpool, a regular opponent, considers him: "Perfect in everything except a genuine pace. He had a magnificent physique to withstand challenges and climb above defences. He was always confident, comfortable on the ball, taking it on his chest, head or feet and having a wide range of distribution."

Lawton scored 22 goals in 23 internationals. But for the lost war years, he surely must have broken England's record.



Matthews...incomparable

TOM FINNEY, the Preston plumber who played gloriously on either wing and at centre-forward. "He was grizzly strong and could beat two men even in an overcoat," said his old team-mate Bill Shankly.

Paisley too was a worshipper. "Finney was fearless, fast, far stronger than he looked, unselfish and a goal-scorer. Also he was a good header, whereas Stan Matthews never touched a ball in the air unless it was unavoidable."

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS, the wing wizard of Stoke and Blackpool who, at 49, still bewildered First Division defenders. Here's Roy Sproson (761 League games for Port Vale) on tackling Matthews:

"He shoves the ball too far in front; he's given it to me. I smile to myself; I knew I had him, for my toe was an eighth of a inch from the ball. He skips over my sliding leg and I hear the crowd laughing. I'm flat on my backside, realising genius is really genius."

ALEXEI "Tiger" KHOMICH, goalkeeping acrobat of the 1945 Moscow Dynamo tour. Not tall but strong — and a born crowd-pleaser. Retired to lie behind goals as a photographer.

FERENC PUSKAS, captain of the 1953 Hungarians who ended England's unbeaten record at Wembley and who, when barely fit with a savaged ankle, gave West Germany such a fright in the 1954 World Cup final.

"The Galloping Major" was short, tubby and not built for speed, except off the mark. Puskas's real pace was in a brain that controlled a left foot of unrivalled delicacy and deadliness — 85 goals in 84 internationals!

ALFREDO DI STEFANO, an Argentinian also capped by Colombia and Spain, revolutionised forward play by his box-to-box mobility, his willingness to tackle back and his mastery of the attacking arts — shooting, close control, heading power and an eye for the most telling pass.

A perfect footballer who was the major influence in Real Madrid's five-year monopoly of the European Cup.

JUAN SCHIAFFINO, the pale, frail genius who toppled Brazil in the 1950 World Cup decider and shone in Uruguay's 7-0 elimination of Scotland in 1954.

BILLY WRIGHT, first winner of 100 England caps. A dynamic, spirited right-half with a punishing tackle who — rather like Gary Mabbutt today — jumped several feet higher than his build led opponents to expect. This ability led to a long, successful second career at centre-half.

STAN MORTENSEN, a dashing, determined inside-right who overcame grave head injuries in a RAF bomber crash by making himself the fastest forward of his time. Scored three hat-tricks for England and, famously, one for Blackpool at Wembley in the 1953 FA Cup Final.

Nearly perfect...

HUNGARY, the 1952 Olympic champions and 1954 World Cup finalists — when an ankle injury to Puskas prevented them from performing at their brilliant peak of attack based on flying wingers, deep centre-forward Hidegkuti, who controlled the build-up but also scored regularly, the adventurous right-half Boszik and two great strikers, Puskas and Koscis.

Any weakness? Yes, the defence — but they didn't often need one.

REAL MADRID, the first club side based on the dream of a World XI with talent plucked from Spain, Argentina, Uruguay, France, Hungary, paid the game's biggest wages to perform on Europe's grandest stage, the newly-built Bernabeu.

MANCHESTER UNITED rose from the ashes of the war to win the 1948 FA Cup and the 1952 First Division championship (their first honours since Edwardian days) and kept on rising as manager Matt Busby recruited a stream of brilliant schoolboys — Duncan Edwards, Bobby Charlton, Roger Byrne etc — allied to such big-money signings as Tommy Taylor, a record at £29,999 from Barnsley.

Progress with PARRY

EXCLUSIVE

BERNARD BALE talks to the Premiership's Top Man

THE FA Premiership tide has turned. The clubs and fans who were dragged into the 21st Century have almost settled down and you can now mention Rick Parry in polite society without being ejected from the boardroom.

Parry, the Premier's chief executive, is no longer a soccer pariah. Any day now someone might ask for his autograph. We thought we would get in first.

WS: *Which part of the country are you from?*
RP: I was born in Chester so I'm nearly a Merseysider. My grandparents lived 50 yards from Anfield so I am life-long Liverpool supporter, although I also have a soft spot for my home-town club, Chester.

WS: *What brought you into soccer?*
RP: The Olympics, I suppose. I used to play, but nowhere near professional standard. I always wanted to work in sport and went to Liverpool University to gain a degree in the leisure industry. I became a leisure consultant and was involved with both the 1992 and 1996 Manchester bids to stage the Olympic Games.

Later I joined the Football League, again as a consultant. I saw quite a bit of Graham Kelly, and found him to be very professional and easy to work with. Later he told me that there might be a position with the FA, who were looking at the possibility of creating a new competition for the top clubs. The chance came at a time when I was pondering over my future. My first reaction was that I didn't want to lose the independence of being a consultant, but then I began to get excited about the challenge and decided to go for it.

WS: *You came in for a great deal of criticism. Did you ever feel like giving up?*
RP: I'm not a quitter and I never went as far as wanting to give it up although I have to admit that the summer of 1992 was pretty grim. There was a lot of flak flying. I wouldn't wish all that on my worst enemy. It was very hard work, too.

I never saw the light of day for three months. But it was all a part of life's tapestry and something to look back on.

WS: *How has it affected your home life?*
RP: Not as much as I had feared. I am married to Kate and our sons are James and Tom, devoted Liverpool fans. I have always been wrapped up in football and the leisure business, so little has changed. I still get my time with my family and play an occasional game of tennis. We are happy and everything has worked out quite well.

WS: *Any regrets so far?*
RP: Not really. You have to work within a certain framework of limitations and perhaps there are things that with hindsight should or should not have been done or said, but that is normal whatever your business or interests.

WS: *What gives you the greatest sense of achievement?*
RP: The fact that the Premiership actually happened. We had about six months to get the whole thing organised — it seemed more like six days! We knew it would be impossible to change everything overnight so we did our best, and we are still in that process of change. But when I see the youngsters taking advantage of our new schools initiative or I go to grounds and see better facilities and crowds 17 per cent up, I find it all very exciting.

WS: *What is the next priority?*
RP: We are committed to reduce the number of Premiership clubs to 20. That will mean fewer fixtures and a better deal for everyone from the national team managers to the supporters who will see players performing at their peak rather than getting tired.

WS: *Is there a criteria for membership?*
RP: Yes, in that clubs have to have the facilities and funding to cope with life in the top sphere of football. It is no good finding out too late that a club can't handle that level.

WS: *Does that mean a prospective closed shop?*
RP: No. Provided the criteria are met there will always be an open door to the Premiership. We have to be protective of the existing members so everyone winning a place will have to make sure they are able to live up to the expectations. In the rare event of the criteria not being met, the club concerned would be given every assistance to improve wherever necessary. Clubs tend to progress over a period of seasons, so it is unlikely that anyone would be turned away.

WS: *Are we seeing the creation of a British League?*
RP: The simple answer is no, although there are a lot of people who would like to see that. There would have to be a lot of hot political issues within the game dealt with before a British League could become a reality. The idea won't go away, but there is no deliberate move in that direction.

WS: *How do you feel about the recent revelations concerning malpractice in the game?*
RP: I'm saddened of course, but I welcome the exposure. I'll be pleased to see the washing put on the line followed by a fresh start. Wherever there are things wrong in the game they must be brought out into the open, however much it might hurt.

WS: *What are your dreams for the future?*
RP: A Championship for Liverpool! I try not to think too far ahead because I'm a believer in taking small steps one at a time and making each one successful. I suppose I would like to see all the clubs with their own visions for the future. I would like to see the rules being obeyed, more stewarding and less policing, more opportunities for young talent to come through, and attendances continuing to go up at every level of the game.

WS: *Do you have a message for the fans?*
RP: Just the age-old plea for patience. We've taken the initiative of having regular consultations with supporters' clubs, so we are listening to your ideas. We're continually seeking improvements and take on board everything we hear from whatever source. We're only into our second season. The message is to judge not on hearsay or the early stages but after five years. We shall have a system and a competition of which England can justifiably be proud.

Graham's gang go goal crazy

MANCHESTER UNITED crashed out of the Champions Cup in the second round — knocking 53 pence off the value of their shares. The defeat by Turkey's Galatasaray will cost United an estimated £6 million in lost prize money, gate receipts and revenue.

The tie was effectively lost in the first leg at Old Trafford, where United squandered an early two-goal lead and then had to battle back to force a 3-3 draw. In Istanbul, United did not manage a single shot at goal in a tense 0-0 draw which was enough for the Turks to progress on away goals.

To make matters worse, Eric Cantona was sent off after the final whistle for insulting the Swiss referee, and was then involved in an ugly incident with riot police as he left the pitch.

The dismal failure was in sharp contrast to United's form in the Premiership where they seem invincible. A 2-1 victory over QPR put them 11 points clear at the top and bookmakers are now refusing to accept any further bets on them retaining their title.

The opposite could be said of George Graham's Arsenal. After four consecutive 0-0 draws in the Premiership, they trounced Standard Liege 7-0 in the second leg of their Cup-winners Cup tie in Belgium — Arsenal's biggest win under Graham and their best result in Europe.

The runaway victory was achieved without Ian Wright, who was rested for the quarter-final, where Arsenal will face a much stiffer test in Torino.

In the UEFA Cup, Norwich continued their remarkable run in their maiden European season. A 1-1 draw against Bayern Munich at Carrow Road was enough for them to progress to the next round where they face another European giant: Internazionale.

Adolfo Valencia put Bayern ahead after only four minutes, but Jeremy Goss, the Welsh international who has suddenly found a liking for scoring goals, grabbed an equaliser after 50 minutes to complete the biggest victory in the club's history.

Goss, who was born in Cyprus and thus could have opted to play for any of the Home Countries, has scored five goals this season — double his total for the last 10 years.

No such luck for Aston Villa, though. After a fine 1-1 draw in La Coruna, they lost the home leg 1-0 in a lacklustre performance which prompted manager Ron Atkinson to lash his team.

"They should be ashamed. We were a poor advert for English football," he said.

Blackburn manager Kenny Dalglish has been busy investing more of Jack Walker's millions. He paid £2.75 million for Leeds midfielder David Batty, a move which infuriated Leeds boss Howard Wilkinson, who wanted to keep Batty. But he was over-ruled by his board who need the cash to finance reconstuction work at Elland Road.

Dalglish's next target was Southampton's England goalkeeper Tim Flowers. A £2 million fee was finally agreed after a proposed move to Anfield was turned down by Flowers, who becomes England's most expensive goalkeeper.

There is consolation for Liverpool in the form of teenager Robbie Fowler, scorer of 10 goals in his first eight senior appearances.

Coventry's Bobby Gould is the latest manager looking for work. He quit after Coventry's 5-1 defeat to QPR amid allegations that his board were preparing to sell the club's biggest asset — Peter Ndlovu. Gould, like Wilkinson, was furious, and resigned rather than see another of his best players sold to make ends meet.

JOHN KELLY

Celtic still in decline as Burns prospers

MANAGERIAL moves at Celtic have dominated Scottish football of late, with first Liam Brady and then Joe Jordan deciding to leave Parkhead, and Lou Macari of Stoke City eventually taking over.

The fact that there was no immediate rush by proven, top-quality managers to fill the vacancy provided ample testimony to the decline suffered by Celtic in recent times.

Some who could have been expected to walk barefoot on broken glass to take the job did not appear. As with the vacant position of Scottish national coach, there was no great rush to file applications.

The responsibility for Celtic's situation is widely regarded as due to the directors, who continue to display a distressing combination of insularity, inertia and self-protection, leaving the long-suffering fans disillusioned.

Macari now returns to the club where he made his name as a player after considerable success at Swindon — tarnished by court cases.

He then had a brief spell at West Ham and an even briefer spell at Birmingham before going to Stoke. Celtic fans no doubt will be hoping that he stays longer at troubled Parkhead.

He had a good start with a 2-1 away win over Rangers immediately followed by a more predictable exit from Europe, 2-1 on aggregate against Sporting Lisbon after Brady had taken his team to victory in the home leg.

Tommy Burns had been one of those mentioned as a possible successor to the Brady/Jordan double act. He spent virtually his entire playing career with Celtic before moving to Kilmarnock and subsequently taking over as player-manager.

Burns got into the Celtic team around the time of Kenny Dalglish's departure to Liverpool in 1977, and was burdened with the tag of "the new Dalglish" by those who had seen his mercurial midfield touches.

He became a regular in the team for over a decade but did not reach the status expected of a genuine replacement for Dalglish.

But Burns has found a suitable niche in club management, as shown by the manner in which he has revitalised Kilmarnock.

They won the Scottish League in 1956, then went down an ever-decreasing spiral in the years that followed.

Burns, with charisma, knowledge and application both on and off the field, has transformed the club, who achieved promotion to the Premier Division last season and, far from assuming the expected role of cannon fodder, have established themselves in the top half.

Motherwell are another team to defy critics who had written them off as relegation candidates, while Hibernian's run to the League Cup Final was mirrored in their League form. They have emerged as championship contenders.

Aberdeen also have hopes despite losing both legs of their European tie to Torino.

Any thoughts of the balance of power in the Scottish game being wrenched from the Rangers, however, are being dispelled.

The Ibrox machine, having made an uncharacteristically sluggish start, now seems ready to sweep aside the gallant early-season challengers. Their 2-1 League Cup victory over Hibs, although slightly fortunate, may well be followed by more trophies.

ALAN FAIRLEY

One last push!

AS the day approaches for the decisive World Cup game against Romania at the National Stadium. fever has gripped the football fraternity and many others with only a passing interest in the sport.

Tickets were sold out in a rush not known since the Germany match of 1991, police had to be called in to control the queues, and over-the-counter sales were soon curtailed in favour of postal applications.

Qualification for US '94 is a reality, tinged with a little pessimism when past failures float to mind. The "nearly-men" tag still hangs on the dressing-room door, and the current squad — in a buoyant and confident mood — are well aware of it.

The absence of Hughes (right) due to suspension may not be such a loss as first thought. Manager Yorath's tactics will need to be spot on against skilful and speedy opponents, and the luxury of playing Giggs, Rush, Saunders and Hughes may not have been possible anyway.

Hughes is naturally extremely disappointed, but his off-the-field enthusiasm will be put to good use in the build-up.

Yorath's tactical problem is mainly to control midfield enough to prevent the Romanians from scoring while providing at least two goals for his own side.

Belgium will be fighting for their own place in the US, and if they win then only a single goal will be required . . . a much more realistic target.

The whole country awaits with baited breath.

In the national championship pre-season favourites Inter Cardiff got into their stride with a six-match unbeaten run, and their 3-0 elimination of Welsh champions Cwmbran Town from the Konica League Cup was an added bonus.

Maesteg Park could prove to be dark horses once they make up their backlog of fixtures. Their first seven matches were all played away due to unfinished ground improvements and they achieved reasonable success.

Then their return to Tudor Park had a disappointing ending in a 4-2 defeat by Holywell Town, who — if they find consistency — could well mount a serious challenge.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

Four managers out in a week

IN the course of seven crazy days in October FOUR Irish League managers eight resigned or were dismissed — evidence of increased pressure for success as promotion and relegation looms large in the minds of directors and fans.

Points gained during this season and next will determine which teams start season 1995-96 in the Premier and First Divisions: very much the "rich" and "poor" leagues.

Player-manager Jim Hagan (Ballymena), Paul Malone (Ards), Billy Sinclair (Coleraine) and Terry Nicholson (Newry) all left their clubs.

Former Glentoran manager Tommy Jackson took over at Ballymena, and his first game in charge was a 3-2 home victory . . . over Glentoran.

There was a winning return, too, for Roy Coyle, who had left League of Ireland club Derry City a couple of days before his appointment at Castlereagh Park. He took Ards to a first League victory, away to Omagh Town. Former Linfield manager Coyle had left three years ago to join Derry, amid considerable controversy.

Billy Sinclair was not long idle either, finding a new position at Larne, but his first match was not so happy. His team lost 2-0 at home to League favourites Linfield.

Sinclair's replacement at Coleraine, former international Felix Healey, saw his side draw 1-1 at Carrick.

Linfield made an unlucky exit from the Champions Cup. After winning 3-0 in Belfast, they lost 4-0 after extra time to FC Copenhagen. The vital third goal for the Danes came well into "added time" — and Linfield missed out on a money-spinning tie against Milan.

Crusaders lost 4-0 away to Servette after holding the Swiss team 0-0 at Seaview.

Billy Bingham's last away match in charge of the Northern Ireland team almost gave him a famous victory, when a controversial refereeing decision ruled out a goal by Jimmy Quinn against Denmark in the World Cup qualifier.

The home team scraped a 1-0 victory, but that sets up the November 17 game in Belfast, against the Republic of Ireland, as a fitting climax to a fine career. The Republic will expect no favours from Bingham's side as they seek the victory that would take them to the US next summer.

The first trophy of the season was decided when a 30th-minute goal by Glenn Hunter gave Crusaders victory over a disappointing Bangor in a dull Ulster Cup Final.

ROY KITSON

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	12	10	1	1	25	9	31
Norwich	12	6	4	2	21	12	22
Arsenal	12	6	4	2	12	6	22
Leeds	12	6	3	3	17	13	21
QPR	12	6	2	4	23	19	20
Blackburn	12	5	5	2	17	13	20
Aston Villa	12	5	5	2	13	9	20
Tottenham	12	5	4	3	19	13	19
Liverpool	12	5	2	5	16	10	17
Wimbledon	11	4	5	1	13	13	17
Newcastle	12	4	4	4	17	14	16
Everton	12	5	1	6	14	16	16
Coventry	12	3	6	3	14	16	15
Man City	12	3	5	4	11	10	14
Chelsea	12	3	4	5	10	11	13
Ipswich	11	3	4	4	10	14	13
West Ham	12	3	4	5	6	13	13
Sheffield Utd	12	2	5	5	16	21	11
Sheffield Wed	12	1	6	5	14	20	9
Southampton	12	2	2	8	13	20	8
Oldham	12	1	5	6	8	19	8
Swindon	12	0	5	7	10	28	5

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

WEEKEND

SHEFFIELD WED 2 (Bart-Williams 47, Bright 86)
MANCHESTER UTD 3 (Hughes 50, 66, Giggs 71). Att: 34,548.

LIVERPOOL 0
ARSENAL 0. Att: 42,750.

LEEDS 4 (Speed 2, 86, McAllister 18, 81)
WIMBLEDON 0. Att: 30,020.

NORWICH 1 (Fox 45)
COVENTRY 0. Att: 16,239.

SWINDON 1 (Taylor 32)
BLACKBURN 3 (Shearer 15, 89, Ripley 51). Att: 15,224.

TOTTENHAM 3 (Sheringham 58, Anderton 88, Caskey 90)
EVERTON 2 (Rideout 16, Cottee 67 pen). Att: 27,487

ASTON VILLA 0
NEWCASTLE 2 (Allen 46 pen, Cole 80). Att: 37,336.

QPR 3 (White 57, 62, Barker 65)
IPSWICH 0. Att: 12,292.

WEST HAM 1 (Morley 43)
CHELSEA 0. Att:18,917.

SOUTHAMPTON 3 (Monkou 28, Maddison 53, Kenna 77)
SHEFFIELD UTD 3 (Falconer 72,Flo 81, 89). Att: 11,619.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

MIDWEEK

MANCHESTER CITY 1 (Sheron 87)
OLDHAM 1 (Sharp 57). Att: 21,401.

COCA-COLA CUP — 2nd rnd, 2nd leg

ARSENAL 1 HUDDERSFIELD 1
Arsenal 6-1 on agg

ASTON VILLA 1 BIRMINGHAM 0
Villa 2-0 on agg

BOURNEMOUTH 0 BLACKBURN 0
Blackburn 1-0 on agg

BRIGHTON 1 MIDDLESBRO 3
Middlesbrough 8-1 on agg

CAMBRIDGE 0 IPSWICH 2
Ipswich 4-1 on agg

CHARLTON 0 C PALACE 1
Palace 4-1 on agg

CHELSEA 2 WEST BROM 1
Chelsea 3-2 on agg

CHESTERFIELD 0 WEST HAM 2
West Ham 7-1 on agg

DERBY 2 EXETER 0
Derby 5-1 on agg

EVERTON 4 LINCOLN 2
Everton 8-5 on agg

HARTLEPOOL 0 GRIMSBY 2
Grimsby 5-0 on agg

LEEDS 1 SUNDERLAND 2
Sunderland 4-2 on agg

LEICESTER 2 ROCHDALE 1
Leicester 8-2 on agg

LIVERPOOL 5 FULHAM 0
Liverpool 8-1 on agg

MAN UTD 2 STOKE 0
Man Utd 3-2 on agg

MILLWALL 4 WATFORD 3
Millwall 4-3 on agg

NORWICH 3 BRADFORD 0
Norwich 4-2 on agg

NOTTM FOREST 3 WREXHAM 1
Forest 6-4 on agg

NOTTS CO 1 NEWCASTLE 7
Newcastle 11-2 on agg

OLDHAM 2 SWANSEA 0
Oldham 3-2 on agg

OXFORD 1 TRANMERE 1
Tranmere 6-2 on agg

PETERBOROUGH 3 BARNSLEY 1
Peterborough 4-2 on agg

PORTSMOUTH 5 ROTHERHAM 0
Portsmouth 5-0 on agg

QPR 4 BARNET 0
QPR 6-1 on agg

READING 1 MAN CITY 2
Man City 3-2 on agg

SHEFF UTD 2 BLACKPOOL 0
Blackpool 3-2 on agg

SHEFF WED 1 BOLTON 0
Sheff Wed 2-1 on agg

SHREWSBURY 2 SOUTHAMPTON 0
Shrewsbury 2-1 on agg

TOTTENHAM 3 BURNLEY 1
Tottenham 3-1 on agg

WIMBLEDON 4 HEREFORD 1
Wimbledon 5-1 on agg

WOLVES 2 SWINDON 1
Swindon 3-2 on agg

WYCOMBE 4 COVENTRY 2
Coventry 5-4 on agg

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEEKEND

MANCHESTER UTD 2 (Keane 65, Sharpe 70)
TOTTENHAM 1 (Caskey 73). Att: 44,655.

CHELSEA 1 (Peacock 82)
NORWICH 2 (Fox 22, Sutton 69). Att: 16,932.

ARSENAL 0
MAN CITY 0. Att: 29,567.

IPSWICH 0
LEEDS 0. Att: 17,548.

WEST HAM 0
ASTON VILLA 0. Att: 20,425.

NEWCASTLE 1 (M. Allen 48)
QPR 2 (Ferdinand 10, B. Allen 50). Att: 33,926.

SHEFFIELD WED 2 (Waddle 9, R. Jones 84)
WIMBLEDON 2 (Blissett 46, V. Jones 89). Att: 21,752.

LIVERPOOL 2 (Fowler 87, Barlow 90 og)
OLDHAM 1 (Beckford 73). Att: 32,661.

SWINDON 1 (Taylor 89)
EVERTON 1 (Beagrie 27). Att: 14,414.

COVENTRY 1 (Babb 88)
SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Charlton 57). Att: 9,984.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

MIDWEEK

BLACKBURN 0
SHEFFIELD UTD 0. Att: 13,505.

WEEKEND

MANCHESTER UTD 1 (Sharpe 53)
EVERTON 0. Att: 35,430.

NORWICH 0
WEST HAM 0. Att: 20,211.

OLDHAM 0
ARSENAL 0. Att: 12,105.

LEEDS 3 (McAllister 56 pen, Newsome 82, Sherwood 86 og)
BLACKBURN 3 (Shearer 35, 46, 76). Att: 37,827.

QPR 5 (Ferdinand 15, Allen 30, 45, Impey 75, Barker 88)
COVENTRY 1 (Ndlovu 76). Att: 12,979.

ASTON VILLA 1 (Atkinson 6)
CHELSEA 0. Att: 29,706.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Dozzell 51)
SWINDON 1 (Bodin 64 pen). Att: 31,394.

MAN CITY 1 (White 66)
LIVERPOOL 1 (Rush 90). Att: 30,403.

SHEFFIELD UTD 1 (Hodges 7)
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Palmer 12). Att: 30,044.

SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Le Tissier 62, 86)
NEWCASTLE 1 (Cole 72). Att: 13,804.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hibernian	12	6	4	2	18	10	16
Aberdeen	13	5	6	2	16	9	16
Motherwell	12	6	3	3	14	11	15
Rangers	12	5	4	3	16	13	14
Kilmarnock	13	4	6	3	12	10	14
Celtic	12	3	6	3	13	11	12
Partick	13	3	6	4	18	18	12
St Johnstone	13	3	6	4	14	17	12
Hearts	13	4	4	5	7	10	12
Dundee Utd	13	2	8	3	11	15	12
Raith	13	2	6	5	15	24	10
Dundee	13	2	3	8	10	16	7

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

WEEKEND

HIBERNIAN 2 (Jackson 44, 67)
DUNDEE UTD 0. Att:7,600.

PARTICK 4 (Grant 6, 29, 38, Taylor 88)
ST JOHNSTONE 1 (Davies 14). Att: 4,000.

DUNDEE 2 (Paterson 21, Dragutin 52)
HEARTS 0. Att: 5,021.

MOTHERWELL 0
ABERDEEN 0. Att: 8,597.

CELTIC 0
KILMARNOCK 0. Att: 23,396.

RAITH ROVERS 1 (McStay 29)
RANGERS 1 (Hetherston og 13). Att: 8,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

MIDWEEK

ABERDEEN 0
HEARTS 0. Att: 14,000.

HIBERNIAN 3 (Jackson 21, O'Neill 48, McAllister 70)
RAITH ROVERS 2 (Dair 40, Rowbotham 52). Att: 9,203.

KILMARNOCK 1 (Roberts 53)
DUNDEE UTD 1 (McKinlay 60). Att: 7,034.

DUNDEE 2 (Dodds 43, Pittman 71)
PARTICK 2 (Shaw 4, Taylor 74). Att: 4,690.

ST JOHNSTONE 2 (Davies 7, 16)
CELTIC 1 (Creaney 22). Att: 7,390.

RANGERS 1 (Fergusson 64)
MOTHERWELL 2 (Arnott 77, 80). Att: 39,820.

WEEKEND

DUNDEE UTD 1 (Welsh 51)
RANGERS 3 (Huistra 13, 45, Hateley 32). Att: 11,045.

PARTICK 3 (Taylor 4, Craig 5, Grant 71)
ABERDEEN 2 (Paatelainen 53, Shearer 55). Att: 6,112.

MOTHERWELL 0
HIBERNIAN 2 (Jackson 20, Wright 83). Att: 9,090.

CELTIC 2 (Creaney 58, McGinlay 64)
DUNDEE 1 (Dodds 54 pen). Att: 16,995.

RAITH ROVERS 2 (Graham 7, Dair 36)
KILMARNOCK 2 (Williamson 72, Mitchell 75). Att: 4,754.

HEARTS 1 (Robertson 71)
ST JOHNSTONE 1 (Wright 85 pen). Att: 6,028.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEEKEND

DUNDEE UTD 2 (Brewster 41, Crabbe 90)
PARTICK 2 (Milne 43, Grant 71). Att: 5,750.

HIBERNIAN 1 (Evans 67)
CELTIC 1 (Creaney 85). Att: 14,588.

KILMARNOCK 1 (Mitchell 76)
ABERDEEN 1 (Paatelainen 73). Att: 9,108.

MOTHERWELL 1(Arnott 25)
DUNDEE 0. Att: 5,126.

RAITH ROVERS 1 (Hetherston 22)
HEARTS 0. Att: 5,376.

RANGERS 2 (Huistra 12, Hateley 52)
ST JOHNSTONE 0. Att: 41,960.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 2 (Paatelainen 25, Sheurer 36)
DUNDEE UTD 0. Att: 13,500.

PARTICK 0
HIBERNIAN 0. Att: 7,900.

DUNDEE 1 (Adamczuk 13)
KILMARNOCK 0. Att: 4,540.

CELTIC v MOTHERWELL — *postponed*

ST JOHNSTONE 1 (Torfason 37)
RAITH ROVERS 1 (Dair 69). Att: 4,111.

HEARTS v RANGERS — *postponed*

LEAGUE CUP — Final

RANGERS 2 (Durrant 55, McCoist 81)
HIBERNIAN 1 (McPherson 59 og). Att: 47,632.

INSIDE OUT

COMPILED BY
DAVID PROLE AND
JOHN KELLY

well done villa

ALL credit to Aston Villa for doing their best to reverse the trend towards ripping off customers.

The club now have a new sponsor, Muller, and Villa are providing a free service pressing the company logo on to shirts bought in the past, to keep them up to date.

That saves fans from having to fork out for a new strip . . . and what a welcome change that is.

Lucky punters

THE Republic of Ireland's 3-1 home defeat by Spain in October — their first at home in a competitive international for eight years — prompted one Dublin bookmaker to return more than £30,000 in bets placed on the home side.

"We are giving the money back to punters who bet on Ireland to win to help ease the depression which has overcome the nation," spokesman Stewart Kenny of Paddy Power Bookmakers explained.

"I think the least the bookies in England could do is to do the same for all the people who backed England."

Some chance!

Major surprise

THE Israeli players who brought off a remarkable 3-2 victory over France in Paris have been given a special reward . . . an audience with their country's President, Ezer Weisman.

We can't help wondering if England's poor form in the World Cup qualifying tournament was due to fears of something similar happening to them.

Kelly's *i*

THE Pardon-Me-For-Plugging-Myself Department has a double entry from Stephen F. Kelly in his latest error-strewn epistle, called ***The Anfield Encyclopedia.***

Under B, for Books, he lists four of the many others written about Liverpool FC, with their authors. Two of them are by Stephen F. Kelly.

The Encyclopedia (why only one "a", we wonder?) also contains the following item, obviously aimed at those without the benefit of Mr. Kelly's education: "Anfield Road End. Known to most fans as the Annie Road End, this is the section behind the goal at the Anfield Road end of the ground."

Swiss clock up 100 years

THE Swiss Football Association (SFV) have announced plans for a soccer festival to celebrate their centenary in June 1995.

SFV general secretary Edgar Obertufer said Austria, France, Germany and Italy had confirmed that they would take part in the six-nation tournament, spread over 10 days with venues in Basle, Bern, Lausanne and Zurich.

The festival will have full FIFA support, hardly surprising since the Swiss were founder members of the world's governing body, who also happen to have their headquarters in the country.

5 x 2

IS THIS a record?

The Second Division match between Exeter and Reading on October 9 contained 10 goals, with five players scoring two each.

Jepson and Ross scored two apiece for Exeter, with Quinn, Lovell and Taylor doing the same for Reading.

We cannot recall such a five-way double happening before. *Can you?*

Gourmet goals

FOOD, glorious food . . . strange how a subject so dear to our hearts has been featuring in the soccer news.

Who ever heard of players being ordered to eat sweets? That is exactly what has happened at Aberdeen, where manager Willie Miller has called in a dietician to help his players.

The dietician prescribed a menu of pasta, potatoes, rice and, incredibly, sweets. Each player is encouraged to eat at least two boxes after every match. Inside Out wonders if this might tempt Paul Gascoigne into a move north of the border once his Italian sojourn is over.

Then there are the two players in Switzerland who are currently having problems "making the weight", to use the boxing parlance.

Second Division top scorer Didier Wittebole, a lover of rich food, is being forced to curb his gourmandising.

A clause in his contract at Bellinzona orders daily weight checks with a fine of 10 francs for each kilogram registered over 80, his ideal weight fixed by the team doctor.

"I love good food so much. It's tough going but I have to watch my weight now if I am to achieve my aim of joining a First Division club next year," says Wittebole.

Ercment Sahin, a Turkish striker playing with FC Zurich, is suffering from a similar problem. Sahin blames his mother's cooking for a weight problem which has resulted in his being relegated to the substitutes' bench.

"There is too much fat in my mother's cooking and all her dishes are too rich in calories," explains Sahin, who is five kilos overweight.

Zurich have now ordered Sahin to follow a strict diet drawn up by the team doctor if he is to win back his first-team place.

We leave the last word to Barcelona's Danish international, Michael Laudrup.

He gave his team mates an object lesson in keeping cool when left on the bench because of the over-abundance of foreign talent.

Laudrup told reporters: "I had three choices — to abuse the player who took my place, to blame it on the coach and say I was leaving, or to have a nice glass of wine while having dinner with my wife. I opted for number three."

SHAMBLES!

No opponent in one game, eight sent off in another

IT WAS the sort of bizarre scene which can happen only in Brazilian football.

The fans were waiting for the championship match between Palmeiras and Vasco da Gama to get under way at the Parque Antartica. The referee and his linesmen were ready to start.

Exhausted . . . a court ruled that the Vasco da Gama squad needed a rest.

The Palmeiras team took the field as usual. But where were Vasco da Gama? In their hotel, having dinner.

Vasco refused to turn up, saying they had won a court order suspending the game for a day. A labour court had accepted their argument that they were entitled to a 66-hour rest between matches, and their last game had ended only 46 hours earlier.

Vasco travelled to Sao Paulo and went straight to their hotel, expecting to play the game next day. Palmeiras refused to allow justice officials into their stadium to hand over the document, then pretended they knew nothing about it. Result: chaos.

"This is why we haven't won a World Cup for more than 20 years," said an exasperated Vanderlei Luxemburgo, manager of Palmeiras. The match was played later and Palmeiras won 2-0.

The incident was all part of a typical month in Brazilian football. Others included a match which had EIGHT sendings-off and ended with players brawling with riot police, and two games in which referees were attacked, one by a club director.

The ugliest scenes were at the South American Supercup match between Gremio and Penarol of Uruguay at the Olimpico stadium in Porto Alegre. Eight players were shown the red card in four separate incidents.

At the end Penarol players surrounded the referee for the customary protest. Gremio fans chanted "Bring on the riot police" and their wish was immediately granted. Several, wielding truncheons and protected by shields, ran on and went quickly on to the attack, pushing Penarol's players back into a corner of the field. The police "scored" first when a Penarol player was whacked with a truncheon while on the ground.

Exasperated . . . Vanderlei Luzemburgo.

The Uruguayans "equalised" against the run of play when a policeman was kicked in the back and knocked over by a player who crept up behind him.

At that point, happy to settle for an honourable draw, the Penarol players rushed into the roll-up tunnel, which collapsed under the pressure.

One has to feel sorry for Penarol's opponents. After all, if Penarol are not afraid to hit out at heavily-protected police, then what might they do to footballers protected by nothing more than shin pads? Meanwhile, Gremio

• Members and their families of Brazil's 1970 World-Cup winning team won a $2m court case against the Brazilian FA and a publishing house for the use of their pictures on collectable cards without their authorisation. This overturned a previous verdict and the FA and publishers are again appealing.

Maradona is in the money . . . even now

WHEN Diego Maradona finally decided to return to soccer with Newell's Old Boys of Rosario — 350km from his home in Buenos Aires — a crowd estimated at 40,000 filled the stadium to welcome him to his first training session with his new club.

Maradona, the man people love to hate for his tantrums and repeated changes of mind, had not lost his drawing power. Newell's rarely get such a gate even for their most important matches.

A month later, with four matches of the championship played and Newell's near the bottom, Maradona still had not made his debut.

He was trying to get back into shape, in order to earn his money — $4 million for a one-year contract, and $25,000 a month.

Newell's are his sixth club, and when looking at the facts and figures one wonders if he ever gave any club value for money except his first, Argentinos Juniors, who did not pay a cent for him. He played 166 matches for them, scoring 116 goals, between 1976 and 1980.

Argentinos loaned him to Boca Juniors for $2.5 million and then got another $5.9 million when the latter club transferred him to Barcelona.

Taking into account only the transfer fees paid, and not what the clubs got when they re-transferred him, Maradona played 40 matches for Boca Juniors in 1981, costing $62,500 a match. He helped them to the championship, scoring 28 goals.

At Barcelona, 1982-1984, he played 36 games and scored 22 goals in two seasons, which works out at the unbelievable sum of $219,444 a game.

Barcelona had paid $7.9 million for him, and managed to sell him to Napoli for $7.5 million.

In Italy, Maradona had 188 games and scored 81 goals between 1984 and 1991, which works out at $39,893 per match. They also won two titles with him, but he did not finish his contract because of suspension for drugs abuse.

He returned to soccer with Sevilla after his 15 months ban, nowhere near his best. He cost the club $4million (which they have not finished paying to Napoli) and had his contract cancelled after playing 26 games and scoring five goals. This works out at $288,461 per match.

Every one of Maradona's five transfers — adding up to nearly $30 million — have been long drawn-out affairs in which his astute business managers (Marcos Franchi is his third) have squeezed every possible cent out of the name. For his first five clubs he played a total of 290 League matches, costing around $80,000 each.

The latest negotiations were lengthy, too. When Maradona finally decided to return, three local clubs were in the hunt for him and at different times it appeared that he had virtually signed for all three. And there was a big offer from Japan — according to his manager — but nobody ever found out the bidder.

Finally San Lorenzo dropped out when they had second thoughts about risking so much money. Then Maradona was widely tipped to rejoin Argentinos Juniors.

He had even given his word to a club board member and rang his nephew — Argentinos player Sergio Daniel Lopez — to tell him they were going to play together this season. Later that day he signed for Newell's.

Maradona has had a couple of phoned death threats since then, presumed to be coming from Argenintos fans who painted slogans on his house.

He is now back in action, for club and country, and knows that this is his last chance, especially if Newell's are relegated.

ERIC WEIL

Revolution in Colombia

BUENOS AIRES, one of the great football capitals of the world, was an appropriate place for Colombia's football revolution to bloom.

A 5-0 rout of double world champions Argentina in their decisive World Cup qualifier at the River Plate stadium during the summer was the ultimate performance for coach Francisco Maturana's Colombian side.

Six years earlier, Colombia had finished third in the South American championship with a 2-1 win over hosts Argentina, then the reigning world champions, at the same venue.

Carlos Valderrama, South American footballer of the year in 1987 and now captain, is the main link between these two Colombian sides, although several players have been around throughout Maturana's brilliant cycle.

Their success is based on a typically South American attacking game, and they have remained faithful to it regardless of results: retaining posses-

fans invaded the field and leapt on to one of the goals, which gave way. The match had been interrupted several times by fans running on, while aTV cameraman was hit by a stone thrown from the crowd. Gremio won 2-0.

Three weeks earlier, the same riot police had been in action in the same stadium to protect the referee at the end of a Brazilian championship match which Gremio lost 1-0 against Santos.

The winner was an 83rd-minute penalty and when the final whistle went, furious Gremio players and directors attempted to attack the ref.

On the same night, a Bahia director rushed on during his team's game at home to Corinthians and aimed a kick at the man in black, after a penalty appeal. He defended himself and the director was taken off by colleagues. Corinthians won 3-1.

Such goings-on will continue as long as the authorities go on imposing feeble sanctions. Bahia's only punishment was to be ordered to play their next two home games in the championship at a "neutral" venue. The Bahia director was not punished.

Gremio were ordered to play two Brazilian championship "home" games at neutral venues for the incidents in the Santos match.

For the Penarol melee, the South American Confederation ordered them to play home games at another stadium for the next six months. Gremio simply moved to the Beira Rio ground, less than a mile down the road.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

Lucky 16 dodge the drop

SIXTEEN clubs managed to escape from the threat of relegation to Brazil's Second Division — before the competition had started.

Some neat political activity, sharper, quicker and far more cunning than anything Brazilian players have been able to manage on the pitch recently, has allowed Brazil's biggest 16 clubs to play this year's championship in the comfortable knowledge that, no matter how bad they are, they will still be in the top flight next year.

The directors came up with the following formula for this year's Brazilian First Division, which has 32 — yes 32 — sides in the First Division: four groups of eight, with the "best" teams playing in groups A and B and the "worst" in groups C and D.

The teams play twice against the others in their own group in the first stage. The top three in A and B qualify for the second stage (in which there are two groups of four which will produce two finalists) along with the winners of groups C and D.

The eight teams to be relegated are the bottom four in C and D. So teams in A and B have nothing to fear.

Some clubs have discovered to their cost that being "the best" has far more to do with political strength off the field than records on it.

Teams condemned to groups C and D include Atletico Paranaense (15th in last year's Brazilian championship), Portuguesa (16th), Goias (17th), Nautico (19th) and Paysandu (20th). Bahia (18th), curiously managed to stay in the top flight. Another mystery is how Gremio, one of the promoted sides last year, managed to go straight into the favoured 16.

Twelve sides went up (last year the First Division had a more sensible total of 20 teams), yet only Gremio secured a place in the elite. Gremio, indeed, are responsible for the whole mess.

The Porto Alegre club, once a giant of Brazilian soccer, were relegated in 1991. Their initial attempt to get the CBF to change the rules to allow them to stay up failed, but in compensation the CBF announced that 12 sides would go up in 1991, giving Gremio more than reasonable chances of a quick returned. The drawback: instead of the sensible total of 20 clubs in the First Division, there are now 32.

The CBF were so busy trying to appease Gremio that they neglected to draw up a fixture list for this year. By the time the contest started, only the four rounds of games had been announced, but even they were immediately undergoing changes to benefit the TV networks.

More alterations were needed because Vasco da Gama decided to go to India before playing their opening matches. This was more lucrative than Brazilian domestic football.

Meanwhile, poor old Botafogo found themselves facing two games on the same day.

The CBF apparently assumed that Botafogo would not reach the final of the Conmebol Cup and arranged for them to play away to Bahia on the day the South American Federation had set aside for the Conmebol Cup Final first leg. To the CBF's surprise, Botafogo beat Atletico Mineiro in the Conmebol semi-final.

The championship groups are:
A: Bahia, Botafogo, Bragantino, Corinthians, Cruzeiro, Flamengo, Internacional, Sao Paulo.
B: Atletico Mineiro, Fluminense, Gremio, Guarani, Palmeiras, Santos, Sport Recife, Vasco da Gama.
C: Ceara, Fortaleza, Goias, Nautico, Paysandu, Remo, Santa Cruz, Vitoria.
D: America Mineiro, Atletico Paranaense, Criciuma, Curitiba, Desportiva, Parana, Portuguesa, Uniao Sao Joao.

sion in defence, playing the ball through midfield with short passes, constantly running into space and quickening the pace as they hit the opposing penalty box, creating surprise from any angle of approach.

Colombia should have won the Copa America in Ecuador earlier this year.

They were the best team, but the devastating finishing they suddenly discovered in the World Cup qualifiers was still only at the gestation stage.

They have lost controversial goalkeeper Rene Higuita, now in jail for unlawfully acting as go-between in a kidnapping, and replaced him with the more orthodox, less daring Oscar Cordoba.

The defence, still marshalled by Luis Carlos Perea, who struck a vital quarter-final equaliser against Uruguay in the Copa America, play as a traditional back four, marking in zones, with 1987 veteran Luis "Chonto" Herrera (right) at full-back again.

In the Copa America, most attacks broke down just short of the penalty box. Maturana tried several permutations up front involving Adolfo Valencia, Victor Aristizabal and late arrival Faustino Asprilla.

Argentina, like Colombia with more than an eye on the August-September qualifiers when they played the Copa America in June-July, retained their title, edging out the Colombians on penalties in the semi-finals.

An Argentinian journalist, referring to Maturana's playing style, asked during the Copa America why Colombia persisted with a trainer "who doesn't mind whether he wins or loses. What sort of attitude is that?" One wonders what the Argentinian thought after his own country's pasting in Buenos Aires a couple of months later by the same side under the same coach.

Argentina, ironically in view of their being on the receiving end of such a defeat on home soil by Maturana's men, have played a significant role in the Colombian game's development.

Alfredo di Stefano in the 1950s pioneered a large influx of influential imports at playing and coaching level, including Carlos Bilardo, Colombia's nation team trainer in the early 1980s and Maturana's predecessor before taking charge of his home country.

Argentina eliminated Colombia in the 1985 qualifiers and went on to win the World Cup in Mexico in 1986, the year it was to have been held in Colombia. A financial crisis led to the change.

Before Maturana, still only 44, took charge of the team in 1987, Colombia fielded dour, defensive sides at international level and achieved little apart from a place in the 1962 World Cup finals in Chile and second place in the 1975 Copa America. Maturana, a centre-back in his playing days, built on attractive junior sides of the mid-1980s. Some of his current squad helped to win Colombia's only international title so far, the South American Youth championship in 1987.

The squad have had their ups and downs, but the World Cup finals always has been the chief objective. Maturana followed a disappointing 1989 Copa America in Brazil with two major successes before the year's end: a place in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, Colombia's first since 1962, after beating Israel in a play-off, and his country's first and only triumph in the South American Libertadores Cup, with Nacional of Medellin.

The 1991 Copa America in Chile was a dip in Colombia's graph despite a place in the last four.

Argentina, rebuilding after the 1990 World Cup without Diego Maradona, quickly found a fine new young side and won the title.

Now, however, Colombia have their best chance of international success.

An editorial in the January 1990 edition of the South American Football Confederation's bi-monthly magazine, following Colombia's success in reaching the 1990 World Cup finals, is equally applicable today.

The author wrote: "Not often does a trainer have so much bearing on the success of a team as on this occasion. Maturana has been much more than a coach.

"He was the guide, the team mate, the friend of his players and the mentor of this real revolution carried out by Colombian football."

PHIL MCVIE

A stop-go season

THE new season started with the usual team changes, but with the Italian market temporarily "dead" and more stability in Argentina, there have been more players returning from Europe than leaving.

The most sensational move was that of Diego Maradona, pictured right making his debut for Newell's Old Boys. They lost 3-1 to Independiente.

Newell's also signed international defender Fabian Basualdo from River Plate and transferred another international, Julio Zamora, to Cruz Azul (Mexico).

Newly-promoted Banfield signed 12 new players, including forwards Rossi and Cozzoni (returned from Toluca, Mexico) and goalkeeper Comizzo (back from America, Colombia).

Many foreigners are playing in the national championship and the players' union continue in their efforts to have the number limited to five per club, with a maximum of three on the field at any one time.

This will be a stop-go season with the opening tournament not finishing before Christmas (due to the later-than-usual start after World Cup qualifiers). Then there is a two-month recess before the restart late in February, but there will be another break for the World Cup finals.

The season will finish in August . . . when the next one should have started, so it is not quite clear what will happen.

The tournament began with only one winner, nine draws and 10 goals on the first day.

Clubs have been studying proposals aimed at turning their professional soccer into limited companies.

Argentinos Juniors have been taken over (for two years) by a group of Mendoza businessmen led by TV interests and are now playing their home games in Mendoza, 1400km from Buenos Aires. These matches are being televised countrywide.

The first "home game" produced a 20,000 gate, about four times the average they had in Buenos Aires.

Ecuador's coach killed

ECUADOR's eight-team final round began with champions Nacional lamenting the death of their coach, Hector Morales.

He was killed a few days earlier by thieves when he tried to stop them stealing his car.

Argentinian Luis Oste scored all five goals in Emelec's 5-0 win over Cuenca, and Paraguayan international Roberto Cabanas was sent off on his debut for Barcelona against Delfin.

Cabanas, signed from Boca Juniors, reacted after being bitten by an opponent. He went straight to hospital for an anti-rabies jab.

Cup crazy

BOTAFOGO of Rio became the second winners of the CONMEBOL Cup, by beating Penarol on penalties after a two-legged final.

Penarol had got through the early rounds for clubs not among the top two in their country (who play in the Libertadores Cup) with junior players, while their first team were touring Europe.

At the same time, Sao Paulo won their sixth trophy in two years by beating compatriots Cruzeiro on penalties in the two-legged series for the Recopa.

These victories qualified Botafogo to play the equivalent UEFA Cup winners, Juventus, and Sao Paulo to face European Cup-winners Cup-holders, Parma. Both matches will be played in the United States.

And the Super Cup, for past Libertadores Cup winners, has now started . . .

FOOTNOTES

● **PARAGUAY's second stage of the championship was suspended after two games, when the Government decided to investigate financial irregularities.**

● **URUGUAY's** championship, suspended since June during the South American Championship and World Cup qualifiers, resumed with Danubio moving within a point of leaders Penarol. Only 5,170 tickets were sold at the six games.

● **CHILE's Colo Colo took a four-point lead over Union Espanola, the Cup winners who had been leading since the start of the season.**

Colo Colo, though transferring Jaime Pizarro to Argentina, have been getting good service (and goals) from another veteran, Patricio Yanez, recently returned from a lengthy injury absence.

● **PERU's** Alianza Lima, who have not won the championship since 1978, topped the table by one point over Melgar with 11 games to go

● **THE 20-team Mexican championship is divided into four groups, each team playing the others home and away.**

The top two of each group qualify for the title play-offs — not the same as the top eight overall — and year after year the grouping looks unfair.

Five of the six teams with the best records are in groups three and four and UNAM, the weak group two leaders, would not be anywhere near the top in any other group.

● **REAL MAYA** won the Honduras Cup tournament with a 5-2 aggregate (2-0, 3-3) against Motagua in the final.

TABLES

ARGENTINA
National A Division — *opening tournament*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Racing Club	3	2	1	0	5	1	5
Velez Sarsfield	3	2	1	0	3	1	5
Independiente	3	1	2	0	7	3	4
Belgrano	3	1	2	0	3	1	4
Lanus	3	1	2	0	3	2	4
Banfield	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
FC Oeste	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
Dep. Mandiyu	3	1	1	1	5	4	3
Huracan	3	1	1	1	2	1	3
San Lorenzo	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Gimnasia	3	1	1	1	1	1	3
Boca Juniors	3	1	1	1	1	2	3
Rosario Central	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
River Plate	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Estudiantes	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
Dep. Espanol	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
Newell's OB	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Argentinos Jun	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
Platense	3	0	2	1	1	4	2
Gimnasia Tiro	3	0	1	2	1	6	1

BRAZIL
National Championship

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	9	7	2	0	16	3	16
Flamengo	9	4	3	2	12	10	11
Bragantino	9	2	6	1	14	10	10
Internacional	9	4	2	3	12	12	10
Sao Paulo	8	3	3	2	13	9	9
Cruzeiro	8	3	1	4	8	9	7
Bahia	10	2	2	6	7	17	6
Botafogo	8	0	1	7	0	12	1

Group B

Palmeiras	9	6	2	1	18	9	14
Santos	8	4	2	2	12	7	10
Vasco da Gama	9	4	2	3	12	10	10
Guarani	9	3	4	2	10	9	10
Gremio	9	3	3	3	11	10	9
Sport Recife	9	3	2	4	5	11	8
Fluminense	9	2	1	6	11	17	5
Atletico Mineiro	8	1	2	5	3	9	4

Group C

Vitoria	11	6	2	3	16	10	14
Paysandu	11	5	4	2	13	9	14
Remo	11	6	1	4	20	14	13
Ceara	11	5	1	5	12	14	11
Nautico	11	4	3	4	13	15	11
Santa Cruz	11	4	1	6	15	12	9
Goias	11	2	5	4	11	15	9
Fortaleza	11	2	3	6	10	21	7

Group D

Uniao Sao Joao	11	3	3	3	19	10	13
Portuguesa	11	6	1	4	20	15	13
Coritiba	11	3	6	2	8	7	12
Criciuma	11	5	2	4	17	19	12
Parana	11	3	5	3	12	11	11
America (BH)	11	4	3	4	18	18	11
At. Paranaense	11	3	4	4	14	15	10
Desportiva	11	1	4	6	9	22	6

Top three teams in Group A & Group B, plus winners of Group C & Group D, qualify for the second round.

PERU
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	19	12	4	3	55	27	28
Melgar	19	12	3	4	40	30	27
Sport Boys	19	11	4	4	37	22	26
Universitario	19	11	4	4	27	13	26
Carlos Manucci	19	9	3	7	24	25	21
Cienciano	19	8	5	6	21	24	21
Dep. Municipal	19	7	6	6	30	24	20
Dep. Sipesa	19	6	6	7	23	19	18
Leon de Huanuco	19	3	10	6	18	23	16
Dep. San Agustin	19	5	6	8	21	30	16
Union Minas	19	4	7	8	16	31	15
Defensor Lima	19	4	5	10	24	32	13
Alianza Atletico	19	3	7	9	23	42	13
UT Cajamarca	19	4	2	13	24	50	10
Union Huaral	19	2	6	11	28	44	10
Sporting Cristal	19	11	2	6	42	18	24

CHILE
First Division

After 10 games: 1) Colo Colo 20pts; 2) Union Espanola, Universidad de Chile, Cobreloa, O'Higgins 16; 6) Antofagasta, Coquimbo 13; 8) Everton 11; 9) Osorno, Temuco, Palestino 10; 12) Melipilla, Universidad Catolica 9; 14) Dep. Iquique 8; 15) La Serena 7; 16) Dep. Concepcion 6.

ECUADOR
First Division — 2nd stage (final)

Group 1: 1) Barcelona 13 pts; 2) Aucas, Valdez 12; 4) Dep. Quito 10; 5) Green Cross 7; 6) Tecnico Universitario 5. Group 2: 1) Cuenca 14; 2) Liga Univ. de Quito 12; 3) Emelec 11; 4) Nacional, Delfin 9; 6) Santos. ***Barcelona, Dep. Quito, Emelec, Nacional, Delfin, Green Cross, Liga Dep. Univ. de Quito and Cuenca qualify for final round — Tecnico Univ. and Santos relegated.***

COLOMBIA
First Division — closing championship

Overall standings: 1) Independiente Medellin 47 pts; 2) At. Junior 45; 3) Millonarios 42; 4) At. Nacional, Once Phillips 40; 6) Bucaramanga, Deportivo Cali, Pereira 37; 9) America 36; 10) Envigado 34; 11) At. Huila 33; 12) Union Magdalena 30; 13) Quindio 27; 14) Cucuta, Independiente Santa Fe 26; 16) Tolima 20.

URUGUAY
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	15	11	2	2	33	11	24
Danubio	16	10	3	3	23	12	23
Defensor	16	7	7	2	18	10	21
Nacional	16	8	4	4	24	16	20
Progreso	16	4	9	3	19	17	17
Cerro	16	6	4	6	17	19	16
Liverpool	16	4	6	5	8	13	14
Rampla Juniors	16	3	7	6	12	16	13
Bella Vista	16	4	5	7	14	14	13
River Plate	15	4	4	7	12	23	12
Wanderers	15	3	5	7	13	20	11
Huracan Buceo	16	2	6	8	6	17	10
Racing Club	16	2	6	8	6	17	10

COSTA RICA
First Division

After 4 games: 1) San Carlos 7 pts; 2) Alajuelense, Cartagines 6; 4) Saprissa, Herediano 5; 6) Puntarenas, Limon, Ramonense 4; 9) Belen 2; 10) Perez Celedon, Turrialba, El Carmen 1.

EL SALVADOR
First Division

After 6 games: 1) Alianza 8 pts; 2) Marte, FAS 7; 4) Luis A. Firpo, Tiburones 6; 6) Municipal Limeno, Aguila, Cojutepeque 5; 9) Baygon-ADET 4; 10) Apaneca 3.

MEXICO
First Division

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ. Guadalajara	8	4	2	2	14	12	10
Necaxa	6	3	1	2	11	12	7
Santos	7	2	3	2	11	13	7
Univ. Nuevo Leon	8	1	5	2	8	11	7
Puebla	7	1	3	3	9	12	5

Group 2

UNAM	8	3	1	4	12	10	7
Leon	7	2	3	2	9	12	7
Morelia	8	2	2	4	10	13	6
Atlante	8	2	1	5	11	15	5
Queretaro	8	0	3	5	6	17	3

Group 3

Toluca	8	4	3	1	13	6	11
Cruz Azul	8	4	2	2	13	7	10
Tamaulipas	8	3	2	3	8	10	8
America	8	3	1	4	15	15	7
Veracruz	7	1	2	4	10	16	4

Group 4

Univ. Guadalajara	7	5	2	0	11	3	12
Guadalajara	7	5	1	1	17	6	11
Monterrey	8	4	2	2	16	12	10
Neza	6	3	1	2	11	11	7
Atlas	8	2	2	4	9	10	6

Top two from each group qualify for quarterfinals, but all 20 teams play against each other twice during regular season.

GUATEMALA
First Division

After 3 games: 1) Suchitepequez, Amatitlan 5; 3) Aurora, Mictlan, Municipal, Comunicaciones 4; 7) Chiquimulilla, Izabal, Sacachispas 3; 10) Xelaju 1; 11) Escuintla, Juventud Retalteca 0.

WORLD PRESS

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (Holland)

SINCE Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk (right) arrived from Holland, Internazionale have been the favourites for the Italian championship. The two Dutch boys don't see it quite like that.

They are 100 per cent behind their new club. But the attitude of the Italian press — and Italian public — have made life difficult for them. They have even been put on the bench, and left to watch the game from the stand, with no injury problems.

Their bank managers are very happy. Why not? Both players have joined the millionaires club. Bergkamp has earned an extra £1m for a contract with Reebok, joining Ryan Giggs in an effort to broaden the European market. But — like Giggs — for Bergkamp and Jonk, football is not only for money. Says Bergkamp: "The training hours and the style of play can be difficult in Italy. I have had a few tips from Frank Rijkaard about that. Plus the Italian press can make life difficult for you. The first year in Italian football can be difficult, as so many foreign players know.

"But, for 12 years I have got used to 4-3-3 or 3-4-3 systems. Here, they play all the time with a 3-5-2 system. So everything has got to change."

For Jonk it is a bit more difficult. There are those who feel he was brought in to make sure of the Bergkamp transfer. There have been suggestions that he will move on to Udinese, as a sort of compensation for their signing of Francesco Dell'Anno.

He has other thoughts. "I've not even read it, but you can take it from me this sort of nonsense written in the Dutch press means nothing to me."

THE GUARDIAN

FOR buyers, the situation is not helped by Blackburn's continued distortion of the market. When Kenny Dalglish spends £2.75 million on a midfield destroyer every other club reappraises its collection of tugs and torpedo boats and mentally ups the asking price.

The David Batty transfer has underlined the deepening difference between the game's rich and poor, coinciding as it has with news of Brighton's latest crisis. Ten years ago they were in the FA Cup final.

"Don't forget the corner shop," says David Pleat as he continues to remind the game of the growing financial gulf between the Premiership and the rest. Now the novelty rock emporium is under threat for the sake of £600,000 — or the price of Batty's left elbow.

Player power has combined with financial stringency to reduce the manager's real influence. Managers are frustrated former players, able to watch, shout and gesticulate but no longer able to do.

Kevin Keegan's spat with two of his rising Newcastle youngsters, Lee Clark and Andy Cole, suggests he is only now discovering why he resisted the call of management for so long. The retain-and-transfer system, which gave managers despotic power over players, has been replaced by freedom of contract and the agent.

Team-building has largely been replaced by jerry-building. Most managers spend their summers negotiating contracts and cobbling sides together for another season. Managers are important up to a point and a few are invaluable. But one Scot spending an Englishman's millions on utility footballers is devaluing the real art of management, as practised by Tony Waddington and Harry Haslam, and the game as a whole is poorer as a result.

FRANCE FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL is unpredictable. It must never be forgotten. When I was a player, with Santos or Brazil, I never trusted games which were meant to be easy. You win a match on the field, and nowhere else.

France were strong favourites, but they didn't respect their opponents. They didn't play seriously. They strolled the ball about to the four corners of the field, thinking they could win when they wanted.

The first thing to be done is to get the players together and tell them that you win games on the field. Posing on the pitch, relying on your reputation, never let a team qualify for the World Cup.

Valenciennes-Olympique Marseille was a global scandal. And there's proof of it! For me, the punishment was logical. FIFA cannot pass up on things like that. There's so much corruption in the political world that it ends by contaminating football.

I'm speaking of Brazil, where I know what goes on. But in any case, you have to punish the culprits in an exemplary way. French justice is one thing, FIFA's is another. And anyway, Marseille isn't the first club to be punished by them.

FIFA will have another look at the Marseille dossier, if there's good reason to do so.

I could do more for my country as president of FIFA than as head of the state. But I'm not the heir to Havelange!

— Pele speaks, after France's shock 3-2 World Cup defeat by Israel in Paris

HEADLINES

"Heaven was on our side" — Seoul's ***Sports Chosun*** on South Korea's fortuitous World Cup qualification.

"God chose (South) Korea, after all" — South Korean mass-circulation national ***Dong-A Ilbo*** on the same subject.

"Japan won't go to the World Cup — right before the end, a heart-breaking tie" — headline in ***Yomiuri Shimbun***, Japan's biggest daily on the national side's last-minute failure to qualify for US '94.

"Japan aghast! World Cup disappears" — the tabloid ***Nikkan Sports*** echoes the sentiment.

KICKER-SPORTMAGAZIN

WHO SAYS that professional football has no heart? We can be proud of our champions, Werder Bremen, who displayed extraordinary generosity when they visited Byelorussia for their Champions Cup tie against Minsk Dynamo.

The team bus travelled separately and the driver needed 26 hours on the road before reaching his destination. He had to bribe the customs men with half his own beer supply to get over the border quicker. The bus was loaded with food, clothing, toys and medicine worth about 25,000 Deutschmarks (£10,000) for the children who were the victims of the nuclear reactor disaster at Chernobyl in 1986 and are still recovering in hospital in Minsk.

The money for the goods came from spontaneous collections and donations among the Bremen players and fans before the first leg in Germany.

"We have always been well received in Eastern Europe and this was our way of saying thank you," explained Bremen's president Dr. Franz Bohmert, who together with the players visited the children in hospital to pass on the gifts.

(Germany)

A BOLA (Portugal)

THE directors of Manchester United are known for their dedication to business and for availing themselves of the fans' dedication to the club in order to try to sell them things that they almost certainly do not need.

Now Manchester United are being transformed into a financial services company by selling life assurance policies and dispensing credit cards. Are they an insurance company? Are they a bank?

Illusions. It makes us think, indeed, what makes a football club operate like that in a world atmosphere of unabating depression and financial crisis.

Britain is living dangerously on a mountain of debts. Yet Manchester United see life from different angles. They believe in those very things that have made many a good name to go under. All they have to bank on is the form of the football team.

But what will happen when victories become scarce and honours and glories not so readily available?

— Astregildo Silva

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Valderrama of Columbia celebrates after they beat Argentina 5-0 away.

SUNDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER

ACTION: Perhaps the biggest shock of the current World Cup qualifiers as South American champions Argentina crash 5-0 at home to Colombia in the River Plate stadium; Colombia thus qualify for the finals while Argentina must play off against Australia. And Argentina only gain the play-off because Paraguay failed to beat Peru — who had lost all their previous games — in Lima . . . Brazil strengthen their World Cup qualifying claim with a 4-0 defeat of Venezuela while Uruguay win well, 1-0 away to Ecuador . . . in the European qualifiers, Portugal win 2-0 in Estonia to leapfrog above Italy on goal difference . . . Nigeria beat Ghana 2-1 in the World Junior Cup Final in Tokyo. Chile beat Poland 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the third place play-off . . . Ajax win Holland's first Match of the Season, beating PSV Eindhoven 2-0 . . . both Roberto Baggio and Gianluca Vialli miss penalties as Juventus lose 2-1 to Roma. Vialli stumbles as he takes his spot-kick, breaks a bone in his foot and could be out for two months . . . Romario makes his league debut for Barcelona with a brilliant hat-trick against Real Sociedad.

MONDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER

COLOMBIA: Triumph and tragedy across the country as at least 20 people die in celebrations following the historic World Cup thrashing of Argentina.

ENGLAND: Sheffield Wednesday sell want-away United States midfielder John Harkes to First Division Derby for £800,000.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA's executive committee shuts title-holders Marseille out of the Champions Cup in order, says president Lennart Johansson, "to protect the integrity of our competitions." The decision provokes fury in the city of Marseille, prompts president Bernard Tapie to issue writs against the French Federation and French police to assign bodyguards to players and officials of both the French Federation and the Valenciennes club. UEFA ask the French Federation to name a replacement entry for the Champions Cup by Wednesday afternoon.

FRANCE: Police claim to have arrested 10 ringleaders in the wake of the hooligan violence the previous week in Paris.

TUESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER

ACTION: A clutch of European Under-21 ties include victories for Poland (2-1 in England), Czechoslovakia (4-0 in Wales), Russia (6-0 v Hungary), Iceland (3-0 v Luxembourg) and France (1-0 away v Finland).

AUSTRALIA: The Australians propose October 31 and November 14 for the World Cup play-off against Argentina.

FRANCE: Federation and league officials meet representatives of the European-qualified clubs to try to persuade one of them to replace Marseille in the Champions Cup. Paris Saint-Germain (Cup-winners Cup), Monaco and Bordeaux (UEFA Cup) all reiterate that they do not want the "honour." Nantes say they will leave any decision to the Federation. Auxerre, who missed a European place after finishing sixth last season, say they would be ready to step into the breach. Marseille issue writs in Paris against the French Federation and League and in Switzerland against UEFA.

GEORGIA: Tbilisi Dynamo appeal against their expulsion from the Champions Cup for trying to bribe the referee at their preliminary round tie against Linfield.

HUNGARY: National team goalkeeper Gabor Zsiboras dies in hospital after collapsing during a training match last Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER

ACTION: The first major World Cup night of the new European season with victories for England (3-0 v Poland), Northern Ireland (2-0 v Latvia), Denmark (1-0 in Albania), the Irish Republic (2-0 v Lithuania), Romania (4-0 in the Faroes), Iceland (1-0 v Luxembourg), Russia (3-1 in Hungary) and France (2-0 in Finland) . . . in friendlies, Norway beat the US 1-0 and Spain defeat Chile 2-0.

BRAZIL: Carlos Alberto Parreira recalls Barcelona striker Romario, after a year's self-inflicted exile, for the World Cup showdown with Uruguay.

COLOMBIA: Bogota police say reports that 98 people died in World Cup celebrations were exaggerated.

FRANCE: Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winner Jorge Burruchaga wins a court judgment against Valenciennes freeing him from his contract (which had a year to run) and allowing him to seek a new club back in Argentina.

ITALY: Lazio say that, following Marseille's European ban, they will seek the immediate transfer of Croat striker Alen Boksic, due to join them next summer.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA accept the French Federation's nomination of Monaco to replace Marseille in the Champions Cup and of Auxerre to take up Monaco's place in the UEFA Cup. Monaco president Jean-Louis Campora says: "We take no pleasure in entering the Champions Cup in this way. We were presented with a *fait accompli*."

THURSDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona signs an agreement to return to football with Newell's Old Boys. He will receive a £2.5million signing-on fee and £15,000 a month. He is also, according to national manager Alfio Basile, likely to be recalled to the national team for the World Cup play-off against Australia.

BELGIUM: Albert Roossens, the so-called "Father of Belgian football," dies aged 77. Roossens was secretary of the Belgian Federation from 1951 to 1988. He was given a six-month suspended jail sentence in 1989 for official culpability in the 1985 Heysel disaster.

FRANCE: Bernard Tapie, attending a "solidarity rally" at the Stade Velodrome with his players, tells 3,000 delighted fans that he will stay on as Marseille president, that money will be found for the club's survival and that he intends to see the team play AEK Athens in the Champions Cup next Wednesday.

GERMANY: Werder Bremen beat Bayern Munich with a 52nd-minute goal from Bernd Hobsch.

ITALY: Inter midfielder Nicola Berti is ruled out for six months in the wake of a knee ligament injury suffered in Wednesday's 2-1 win over Cremonese . . . Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti says Paul Gascoigne should end his media silence. Cragnotti says: "If he was upset because the papers wrote he was overweight after the summer holidays then the answer lay with his own behaviour. He really was overweight. If anyone should have been upset it was the club."

SWITZERLAND: European football is plunged into a major political crisis as Marseille are granted an injunction by a Bern court which orders UEFA to reinstate them in the Champions Cup. President Bernard Tapie, who had been on the point of withdrawing a lawsuit which was thrown out first thing in the morning by a French court, changes his mind. FIFA president Joao Havelange orders a crisis summit with the leaders of both UEFA and the French Federation.

FRIDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER

SWITZERLAND: As FIFA and UEFA's leaders meet, along with French Federation president Jean Fournet-Fayard, so Marseille president Bernard Tapie announces he is withdrawing his legal action. The last straw appears to have been a warning from Fournet-Fayard that France risked losing hosting rights to the 1998 World Cup as well as everything else.

RUUD GULLIT . . .

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SATURDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER

ACTION: In France, dispirited Marseille are held goalless at Toulouse . . . German league-leaders Eintracht Frankfurt are knokced out of the Cup in the third round, losing 5-3 to promoted Freiburg after extra time; crisis club Koln lose 5-4 on penalties after a goalless draw in extra time with the amateur team of Bayern Munich . . . more problems for Porto as the Portuguese champions are held 0-0 at home by Famalicao . . . Barcelona fail to repeat the previous week's goal rush and draw 0-0 away to Albacete.

SUNDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER

ACTION: A refereeing controversy explodes after Uruguay squeeze a 2-1 victory over Bolivia in the World Cup South American qualifiers . . . Torino (beating Udinese 1-0) and Milan (beating Atalanta 2-0) are joint leaders in Italy with seven points apiece from four matches in Italy's Serie A . . . Bilbao (2-1 winners at Lerida) and Santander (1-0 at Logrones) remain the only 100 per cent teams after just two

rounds of the Spanish championship. Real Madrid, playing their first home league game in the newly refurbished Estadio Bernabeu, suffer the indignity of a 3-1 defeat by Valladolid.

SCOTLAND: SFA officials dismiss speculation that national coach Andy Roxburgh is about to quit that side of his job.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

BOLIVIA: State President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada orders his government to protest to FIFA over the refereeing of the 2-1 World Cup defeat by Uruguay in Montevideo. The Bolivian ambassador in Bogota is instructed to protest to the Colombian referees' association about the performance of Colombian referee Armando Perez Hoyos.

SCOTLAND: Andy Roxburgh, who resigned on Monday as national coach, will continue to be employed by the Scottish FA as technical director.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA decides the two decisive South American qualifiers this coming Sunday must kick off at the same time to pre-empt accusations of manipulation. FIFA tell Ecuador to put their game in Guayaquil against Bolivia back half an hour to coincide with the kick-off in the Brazil-Uruguay match.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

ACTION: First shots are fired in the first round of the Cup-winners Cup and the UEFA Cup.

AUSTRALIA: The Federation confirm two warm-up matches against South Korea on September 24 and 26 to prepare for the World Cup play-off ties against Argentina.

CROATIA: The Cup-winners Cup game between Hajduk Split and Ajax Amsterdam, ordered out of Croatia by UEFA because of renewed fighting between government forces and Serb rebels, will be played Friday evening in Ljubljana in neighbouring Slovenia.

SPAIN: Sevilla block the transfer of Diego Maradona to Newell's Old Boys of Argentina. A spokesman blames Maradona's failure to fulfil his contract last season with Sevilla and the economic damage caused to the club.

ZAMBIA: Investigators find the wreckage of the Zambian air force plane which crashed off the coast of Gabon in April killing 18 members of the national team. It had been bound for Senegal for a World Cup qualifier.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

ACTION: A full night of action in the European club cup first round, first leg ties. The Champions Cup brings surprise defeats for Barcelona (3-1 at Kiev) and Feyenoord (1-0 v Akranes in Iceland). Rangers beat Levski Sofia only 3-2 at Ibrox . . . Morocco beat Mali 3-0 in an international friendly . . . Botafogo defeat Atletico Mineiro 3-0 (and 4-3 on aggregate) in the semi-final return of the CONMEBOL Cup. They will play Penarol (victors over San Lorenzo) in the final.

AUSTRALIA: Manager Eddie Thomson appeals for Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich to end his international retirement and return to national duty for the World Cup qualifying play-offs against Argentina.

FRANCE: The Federation summons players and officials involved in the Marseille scandal to a disciplinary hearing next Tuesday. Any punishments will be announced the next day, 24 hours before FIFA's deadline expires . . . Marseille sell France midfielder Jean-Marc Ferreri to their promoted Mediterranean neighbours Martigues. Ferreri rejoined Marseille from Auxerre last season.

GHANA: Ghana surprise the USSF by cancelling their scheduled October 9 match with the US at Foxboro Stadium. American national teams manager Bill Nuttall says: "We are extremely disappointed Ghana informed us at such short notice we didn't have enough time to find suitable substitutes."

POLAND: Coach Andrzej Strejlau recalls midfielder Andrzej Rudy and captain Roman Szewczyk to his squad for the World Cup qualifier against Norway in Oslo. Both missed the 3-0 defeat by England, Rudy because of club commitments with Koln and Szewczyk because of a leg injury. Midfielder Dariusz Adamczuk and forward Jan Furtok are suspended. Squad: Bako, Matysek, Bak, Wegrzyn, Szewczyk, Lesiak, Czachowski, Kozminski, Brzeczek, Swierczewski, Rudy, R Warzycha, Kosecki, Ziober, Staniek, Lesniak.

SPAIN: Sevilla, hoping to block the transfer of Diego Maradona to the Argentine club Newell's Old Boys, admit they still owe Napoli almost £2million on his transfer from the Italian club last year . . . striker Bebeto threatens to walk out on La Coruna if the club try to stop him flying home to play against Uruguay in the decisive, last World Cup qualifier.

ZAMBIA: Zambia agree to play their October World Cup qualifier against Morocco despite losing a protest against the proposed match officials because they come from Gabon. Zambia had appealed to FIFA to replace the scheduled referee and linesman because of an inter-governmental row in the wake of the Zambian air crash (off the coast of Gabon) earlier this year.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

GERMANY: Uli Stein (below), veteran goalkeeper of league leaders Eintracht Frankfurt, hits out at former coach Dragoslav Stepanovic in his autobiography. Stein says

Stepi's decision to quit Frankfurt last spring was directly responsible for the club's failure to land the league title. Stepanovic says: "Stein is a great goalkeeper but he should keep his mouth shut."

ITALY: The draw for the international stage of the Anglo-Italian Cup is — Group A: Ancona, Pisa, Ascoli, Brescia, Notts County, Charlton, Bolton, Middlesbrough. Group B: Pescara, Fiorentina, Cosenza, Padova, Stoke, Portsmouth, West Bromwich, Southend. The highest-placed English club from each section meet in one semi-final, with the top Italian clubs meeting in the other. Winners meet at Wembley on March 19 . . . Milan left-back Paolo Maldini is ruled out for a month after falling awkwardly when tackled from behind in Milan's 1-0 win over Aarau in the Champions Cup. Already unfit are Van Basten, out until January, Savicevic and Lentini.

PORTUGAL: Porto coach Tomislav Ivic faces dismissal if the champions do not secure their first league victory of the season in next Tuesday's match, away at Braga.

SPAIN: Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff refuses to be panicked after the Champions Cup defeat in Kiev. He says: "Nothing terrible happened. We missed an opportunity we shouldn't have missed but I am still moderately optimistic. We played with more heart than head." . . . Barcelona goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta is poised to equal Jose Camacho's Spanish record of 81 caps as he is selected in the World Cup squad to face Albania on September 22. Squad: Zubizarreta, Lopetegui; Caminero, Alkorta, Luis Enrique, Camarasa, Toni; Amor, Guardiola, Hierro, Nadal,

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

ACTION: Croatia Zagreb, forced to move their Cup-winners Cup tie to Slovenia because of renewed fighting, beat Ajax 1-0 in Ljubljana.

ALBANIA: National manager Bejkush Birce bans his players from swapping shirts after internationals because of problems obtaining enough kit for the forthcoming World Cup tie against Spain.

AUSTRIA: FK Austria cut ticket prices in half for their Champions Cup return against Rosenborg Trondheim. FK, who lost the first leg 3-1, slash the standard adult ticket price of £6. The club's average league attendance has slumped to 3,000.

BRAZIL: National boss Carlos Alberto Parreira refuses to worry about the outcome of Sunday's all-important World Cup showdown with Uruguay. He says: "Any team which has Romario, Bebeto, Rai and Zinho is going to qualify for the World Cup."

ENGLAND: Liverpool sign West Ham full-back Julian Dicks in exchange for David Burrows and Mike Marsh, each valued at around £2million . . . the introduction of substitutes at half-time is reorganised, with a new man having to be clearly signalled from the touchline, to resolve confusion since the introduction of squad numbering.

HOLLAND: Dick Advocaat rebuilds and strengthens the Dutch attack for the goal chase against San Marino in Bologna. Dropped are strikers John Bosman, Peter Van Vossen and Regi Blinker as well as defender Ulrich van Gobbel; in come forwards Ronald de Boer, Wim Kieft, Hans Gillhaus and Bryan Roy. Gillhaus has not played for Holland since October 1990, Roy has not played since October last year. Squad: De Goey, Snelders; De Wolf, Ronald Koeman; Frank De Boer, Witschge, Jonk, Wouters, Winter; Overmars, Ronald De Boer, Bergkamp, Kieft, Gillhaus, Roy.

ITALY: Arrigo Sacchi makes only limited amendments to his World Cup squad for the visit to Estonia. Antonio Benarrivo or Daniele Carnasciali will substitute for injured Paolo Maldini. Squad: Marchegiani (Lazio), Pagliuca (Sampdoria); Baresi (Milan), Benarrivo (Parma), Carnasciali (Fiorentina), Costacurta (Milan), Fortunato (Juventus), Vierchowod (Sampdoria); Albertini (Milan), Eranio (Milan), Evani (Sampdoria), Lombardo (Sampdoria), Manicone (Inter), Signori (Lazio); Roberto Baggio (Juventus), Casiraghi (Lazio), Ganz (Atalanta), Mancini (Sampdoria).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

ACTION: Angolan club Atletico Aviacao reach the semi-finals of the CAF Cup by defeating Gor Mahia of Kenya 4-2 in a penalty shoot-out in Nairobi after a goallesss draw . . . Everton beat Liverpool 2-0 in the Mersey derby . . . Marseille beat old rivals Bordeaux 3-1 in France with goals from DiMeco, Dutuel and Prunier . . . a late equaliser by Jorn Andersen earns Eintracht Frankfurt a 2-2 draw with Leverkusen and keeps them top of the Bundesliga . . . Real Madrid crash again in Spain, this time 4-0 away to La Coruna.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona is omitted from Argentina's initial squad for the World Cup play-offs against Australia but manager Alfio Basile says he may still be called in if he proves his fitness playing for Newell's Old Boys once the new season gets under way.

OBITUARY

BOSCO JANCOVIC, former Middlesbrough and Yugoslavia striker, dies aged 42.

HECTOR MORALES, former coach of Ecuador, was shot dead by thieves when he tried to stop them breaking into his car in Quito where he trained champions Nacional.

MIGUEL ANGEL RUGILO, Argentinian international goalkeeper in the late 1940s and early 1950s, died aged 75. Renowned in Argentina as the Hero of Wembley for his display when England won 2-1 in 1951 in the first international between the countries.

RALPH BANKS, the Bolton full-back tormented by Stanley Matthews in the 1953 FA Cup Final, died aged 73. Younger brother Tommy, also a left-back, won the FA Cup with Bolton in 1958.

GERMANY: Borussia Dortmund protest to UEFA about having to play their UEFA Cup return against Spartak Vladikavkaz in a Russian city crowded with Georgian refugees who have taken over the hotel in which they intended staying.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

ACTION: Brazil, beating Uruguay 2-0, and Bolivia, drawing 1-1 in Ecuador, reach the World Cup finals. Uruguay do not . . . Asante Kotoko of Ghana reach the semi-finals of the African Champions Cup, beating Nkana Red Devils of Zambia 3-0 (3-1 on agg) . . . Werder Bremen maintain their pursuit of German league leaders Frankfurt by winning 3-0 away to Karlsruhe . . . a hat-trick by Faustino Asprilla lifts Parma to a 3-0 win over Torino; Milan take over the league leadership . . . Benfica beat Farense 4-1, their first win of the league season . . . Barcelona, without Romario who is on World Cup duty with Brazil, draw 0-0 away to Bilbao.

CYPRUS: UEFA'S executive committee, meeting in Cyprus, admits Israel as a provisional member, paving the way for full membership to be approved at the next UEFA Congress which would bring UEFA up to 45 members. Azerbaijan and Moldavia are associate members. The draw for the 1996 European Championship is set for January 22 in Manchester.

GERMANY: Nurnberg goalkeeper Andy Kopke is voted Footballer of the Year. He polls 194 votes, followed by Werder Bremen's Austrian forward Andy Herzog (74) and Frankfurt's Ghanaian striker Anthony Yeboah (64). Kopke is only the fourth goalkeeper to be crowned, after Hans Tilkowski (1965), Sepp Meier (1975, 1977 and 1978) and Toni Schumacher (1984 and 1986).

TEAM OF THE MONTH

ZAMBIA . . .

for going so close to the World Cup finals after the national squad was wiped out in the Gabon plane crash in April.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona shrugs off reports of a telephone death threat and reveals that he has decided to release the police bodyguard assigned to protect him.

JAPAN: Slovak goalkeeper Miroslav Mentel of Dunajska Streda signs a one-year contract with Urawa Red Diamonds of the J.League.

GERMANY: The national team flies out to Tunisia for a midweek friendly with Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder Maurizio Gaudino tipped for his debut and skipper Lothar Matthaus likely to move into the back four.

SPAIN: Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza, after an emergency board meeting, says that the directors have "full confidence" in coach Benito Floro. Mendoza also denies reports that Madrid are negotiating to borrow Portugal star Paulo Futre from Marseille.

UNITED STATES: Miami and Orlando in Florida, Birmingham (Alabama) and Washington DC are selected to host matches in the early rounds of the Olympic Games soccer finals scheduled for Atlanta in 1996. The Final will be staged in Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

ACTION: In the European Under-21s, Norway and Holland claim 3-1 victories over Poland and San Marino respectively.

FRANCE: The French Federation interviews the central figures in the Valenciennes-Marseille match-fix scandal, sifts the evidence and decides on punishments to be announced first thing the following morning.

GREECE: National manager Alketas Panagoulias is to follow his World Cup qualifying success by standing for parliament in the forthcoming elections.

global TRANSFERS

(Loan moves in italics)

David **BATTY**	M	Leeds United	Blackburn Rovers
Alen **BOKSIC**	M	Marseille	Lazio
ELIVELTON	F	Sao Paulo	Grampus 8 (Jap)
*Johnny **HANSEN***	*D*	*Ajax*	*Middlesbrough*
Rick **HOLDEN**	F	Manchester City	Oldham Athletic
Lyndon **HOOPER**	M	Toronto Blizzard	Birmingham City
*Aki **HYRYLAINEN***	*D*	*HJK Helsinki*	*Eendracht Aalst*
Mo **JOHNSTON**	F	Everton	Hearts
Marius **LACATUS**	F	Brescia	Steaua Bucharest
Ante **MARKOVIC**	F	Inter Zaprisa (Cro)	Young Boys
*Darko **PANCEV***	*F*	*Internazionale*	*Marseille*
Ian **PEARCE**	D	Chelsea	Blackburn Rovers
Adem **PORIC**	M	St George Budapest (Aus)	Sheffield Wednesday
Stuart **SLATER**	M	Celtic	Ipswich Town

Marius **LACATUS**

PORTUGAL: Champions Porto win their first match of the season, 2-0 away to Braga, with both goals coming from Bulgaria's Emil Kostadinov.

SPAIN: Federation president Angel Villar dismisses protest from Sevilla and decides to ratify the international transfer permit so Diego Maradona can make his latest comeback with Newell's Old Boys and then, perhaps, lead Argentina in their World Cup play-off against Australia.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

ACTION: In the World Cup, Norway virtually secured a finals place by defeating Poland while Holland enhanced their claims by winning 7-0 in San Marino. Spain won 5-1 in Albania and Italy won 3-0 in Estonia . . . world champions Germany drew 1-1 in Tunisia while the day's other friendly saw Romania beat Israel 1-0 . . . Spain beat Albania 3-0 in the European Under-21s.

ENGLAND: Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich (right) turns down an appeal from Australia manager Eddie Thompson to end his international retirement and face Argentina in the World Cup qualifiers. Bosnich says he was upset by the Australian Federation's decision to obtain his suspension from all competition after he quit the side at short notice shortly before the earlier tie against New Zealand.

FRANCE: Marseille, having been barred from defending the Champions Cup, are now stripped of their domestic league title by the French Federation. The outcome of the Valenciennes match fix scandal is life suspensions for Marseille's former general secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes and three of the four players implicated, Marseille's Jean-Jacques Eydelie and Valenciennes' Christophe Robert and Argentine international Jorge Burruchaga. Valenciennes' Jacques Glassman, who first revealed the fix, was not suspended. The Federation says the punishments are provisional pending legal proceedings. No penalties are imposed on the club presidents Bernard Tapie (Marseille) and Michel Coencas (Valenciennes).

ITALY: Parma secure Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla to a new contract tying him to the club until 1998. The two-year extension to a contract which did not, in any case, expire until 1996 is worth £400,000 a year.

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa agree to play their first match outside Africa, since their return to FIFA, against Mexico in Los Angeles on October 6. They may then take over the October 9 fixture with the United States left vacant by Ghana's cancellation.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

ARGENTINA: National boss Alfio Basile makes his peace with Diego Maradona during a radio programme in Buenos Aires. Basile tells Maradona he will pick him against Australia if he can demonstrate match fitness on his return to the game with Newell's Old Boys.

FRANCE: George Weah scores twice as Paris Saint-Germain beat Auxerre 4-0.

SWITZERLAND: Top officials of FIFA and UEFA agree to meet on Monday to consider extending internationally the sanctions already imposed on Marseille by the French Federation.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

ACTION: South Korea and Australia draw 1-1 in Seoul.

BELGIUM: Stephane Demol, out-of-favour World Cup defender of Standard Liege, thinks over an offer from Dundee United.

FRANCE: Marseille have two players (goalkeeper Barthez and defender Boli) sent off in a 3-0 defeat by Metz. The game is abandoned three minutes from time when scuffling Marseille fans pour onto the pitch.

ROMANIA: Dinamo Bucharest have last weekend's 1-1 draw with Progresul turned into a 3-0 defeat by the Federation's disciplionary committee as punishment for unruly behaviour and dissent exhibited by Dinamo's coaching staff during the match. Dinamo must also play their next two home games at neutral venues.

GERMANY: Borussia Dortmund decide not to maintain a threat to quit the UEFA Cup after UEFA reject an appeal to switch their tie against Spartak Vladikavkaz to Moscow because of accommodation, security and communication problems.

SPAIN: Federation officials deny that an agent, Carlos Uriarte, attempted to fix the midweek World Cup tie in which Spain beat Albania 5-1 in Tirana. Uriarte travelled with the official party but, says the FEF, was present only to negotiate a kit-advertising deal with the Albanians and a transfer.

SWITZERLAND: Brazil go top of FIFA's new world rankings. Previous leaders Germany drop to fifth place, level with England (up from 11).

ZIMBABWE: Concern is expressed at ZFA headquarters when World Cup rivals Guinea fail to turn up as expected for Sunday's World Cup-tie in Harare.

WHAT'S ON

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16
World Cup qualifier, Europe Group 2: San Marino v England.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 1: Italy v Portugal, Malta v Scotland, Switzerland v Estonia. **Group 2:** Poland v Holland. **Group 3:** Northern Ireland v Rep. of Ireland, Spain v Denmark. **Group 4:** Wales v Romania, Belgium v Czechoslovakia. **Group 5:** Greece v Russia. **Group 6:** France v Bulgaria. **Play-off, 2nd leg:** Argentina v Australia (Buenos Aires). **International:** Germany v Brazil.

TV

SKY SPORTS

REGULAR PROGRAMMES —
ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM: Friday 12, 26 at 17.00.
SOCCER NEWS: Monday 15, 22, 29 at 18.00, 22.15. Tuesday 16, 23, 30 at 07.00, 08.15, 18.00, 22.00. Wednesday 17, 24 at 07.00, 08.15, 18.00, 22.00. Thursday 18, 25 at 07.00, 08.15, 18.00. Friday 19, 26 at 07.00, 08.15.
GOAL - THE FOOTBALL QUIZ: Monday 15, 22, 29 at 22.30. Tuesday 23,30 at 17.30.
SKY SOCCER WEEKEND: Friday 12, 19, 26 at 18.00, 23.00. Saturday 13, 20 at 09.30.
FORD SUPER SUNDAY: Sunday 21, 28 at 14.00, 16.00, 18.00.
FORD MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL - LIVE: Monday 22, 29 at 19.00.
THE BOSS: Sunday 14, 21, 28 at 13.30.
GOALS ON SUNDAY: Sunday 21, 28 at 12.00.**NETBUSTERS:** Tuesday 16, 23, 30 at 18.15.

FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER
24.00.....THE FOOTBALLERS FOOTBALL SHOW
01.30.....FRENCH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER
10.30.....FRENCH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER
12.00.....FA CUP SPECIAL
14.00.....FA CUP — PREVIEW SHOW
16.00.....FA CUP FOOTBALL LIVE
18.00.....JONATHON PEARCE'S TALKBACK
23.00.....FA CUP FOOTBALL

MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER
12.00.....FA CUP FOOTRBALL
19.00.....FA CUP FOOTBALL — LIVE
24.00.....FA CUP FOOTBALL

TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER
12.00.....FA CUP FOOTBALL
22.15.....THE BOSS
23.45.....NETBUSTERS

WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER
08.30.....THE BOSS
13.30.....THE BOSS
18.15.....WORLD CUP — SAN MARINO v ENGLAND — LIVE

THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER
10.15.....NETBUSTERS
13.30.....WORLD CUP FOOTBALL
20.00.....ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM
FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER
14.00.....ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM

SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER
10.30.....ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM

SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER
01.00.....FORD SUPER SUNDAY — NEWCASTLE v LIVERPOOL

MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER
12.30.....FA PREMIERSHIP — NEWCASTLE v LIVERPOOL
24.00.....CHELSEA v MANCHESTER CITY

TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER
12.30.....CHELSEA v MANCHESTER CITY
20.30.....THE FOOTBALLERS FOOTBALL SHOW
22.15.....THE BOSS

WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER
19.00.....FA CUP FOOTBALL
24.15.....FA CUP FOOTBALL

THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER
07.45.....THE BOSS
21.00.....ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM
22.00.....SOCCER NEWS
23.15.....NETBUSTERS

FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER
12.00.....FA CUP FOOTBALL
24.00.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW ON THE ROAD

SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER
08.00.....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
20.45.....NETBUSTERS

SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER
23.00.....FORD SUPER SUNDAY — LIVERPOOL v ASTON VILLA

MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER
12.30.....FA PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL — LIVERPOOL v ASTON VILLA
24.00.....FORD MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

TUESDAY 30 NOVMEBER
12.30.....FA PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL
20.30.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW ON THE ROAD
22.15.....THE BOSS
22.45.....FRENCH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

EUROSPORT

REGULAR PROGRAMMES — EUROGOALS MAGAZINE: Monday 15, 22, 29 at 22.00. Tuesday 9, 16, 23, 30 at 12.00 & 17.30. Wednesday 17, 24 at 11.00.

FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER
12.00.....1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS
WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER
22.00.....1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS
THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER
11.00.....1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS
21.00.....1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS
FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER
11.00.....1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS
WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER
22.00.....EUROGOALS MAGAZINE
THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER
11.00.....EUROGOALS MAGAZINE
FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER
11.00.....EUROPEAN CUPS

WORLDWIDE QUIZ

TEN out of ten for **DANIEL SEPPINGS** of Stratford in East London, who answered all last month's questions correctly. Daniel wins a copy of the Guinness Record of World Soccer, by Guy Oliver.

This month's prize is **The Guinness Record of the FA Cup** (left), by Mike Collett — a complete record and history of the oldest and most enthralling competition in British football. This 640-page book retails at £14.99, but you can win a copy just by answering the questions in this month's quiz.

Answers, on a *postcard* please, to the usual address by December 1.

1. Which former Aston Villa player took over as Zambia's coach earlier this year?

2. Name the Scandinavian club where Trond Sollied is player-manager.

3. "Celeste" is sometimes used as a nickname for which South American country?

4. Who is the English-born goalkeeper who scored five penalties when helping a Mediterranean club to a League championship in 1990-91?

5. Name the African country where Township Rollers hold the record for number of championships won.

6. The Ulrich Haberland Stadion is home to which German club?

7. Name the Scottish club whose official badge bears four words, one of which is Ready.

8. What is the Wembley League Cup Final record shared by Swindon, Spurs, Liverpool, Oxford and Nottingham Forest?

9. Which Irish club play their home games at Turner's Cross?

10. Name the country who won the South American Championship in the 1980s for the first time in 40 years.

NOVEMBER ANSWERS

1 Juan Seminario when Peru won 4-1 in 1959. 2 Franco Tancredi of Roma. 3 Everton (they have won six, drawn five and lost nine). 4 He is the only one of the 66 whose surname does not end with the letter v. 5 Cliff Jones, against Gornik in 1961. 6 Wimbledon, when they beat Burnley in 1975. 7 Lato of Poland, with 20. 8 Frankfurt am Main. 9 Trevor Francis. 10 Internazionale at home against Milan.Piazza Duse 1 and Via Turati 3 are their respective addresses, but they share the Meazza stadium.

X WORD

Compiled by Christine Ansell

ACROSS

1 .....Germany's long-time Spanish exile back at Leverkusen from Atletico (8)
6 .....Stalwart Barcelona midfielder with Spanish international honours (4)
7 .....Ex-PSV and Feyenoord coach who followed Vandereycken at Ghent (6)
9 .....Dortmund's '93 UEFA Cup final defender formerly with Bayern and Juve (6)
10...1993 Real Madrid recruit from Sao Paulo's defence (5)
11...Former Oviedo forward in Atletico Madrid's squad (5)
14... . . . and his fellow newcomer at the Vicente Calderon, from La Coruna (6)
16...French midfield star recently contracted to Atalanta (6)
17...Frank, veteran Dortmund and West Germany striker (4)
18...1987 Greek Cup winners represented in this season's UEFA Cup (3,5)

DOWN

2 .....Cesena's top scorer last time round in Serie A (6)
3 .....Outstanding Swedish midfielder who moved on to Benfica and Napoli (5)
4 .....Ex-Verona and Brescia Romanian with Milan (9)
5 .....Much-travelled FC Porto and Portugal forward first prominent with Guimaraes (4)
8 .....Leading scorer in recent Bari sides (4,5)
12...Valenciennes player caught up in the Marseille match-fixing problem (6)
13...Former Cesena 'keeper at Milan (5)
15...Torino forward recruited this year from Parma (4)

LAST MONTH'S WINNER:
Harry Roelfs, Le Veendam, Holland.

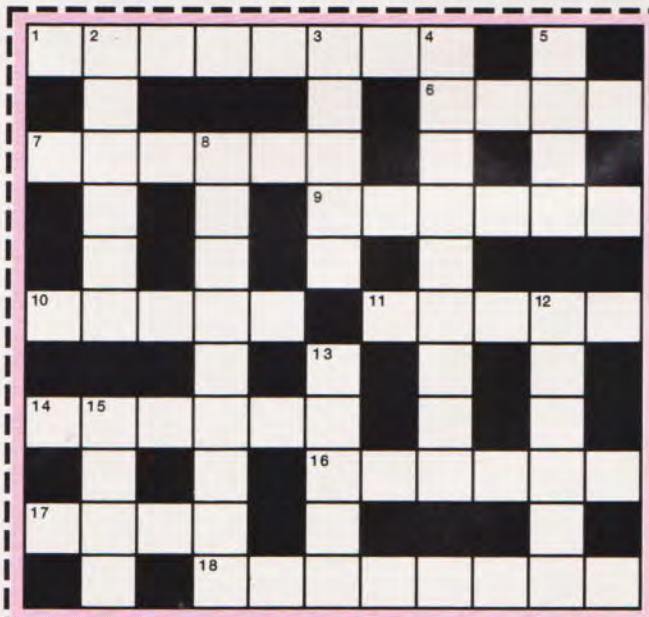
WIN lotto

To win a pair of Lotto Futura boots, fill in this month's crossword and send it to:

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD (DECEMBER), 25th floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 2. Radchenko, 6. Olsen, 7. Gomes, 9. Kaizer, 10. Sion, 12. UEFA, 14. Camara, 17. Deane, 18. Bruno, 19. Guimaraes
DOWN: 1. Bjorklund, 2. Rossi, 3. Dundee, 4. Hagi, 5. Nimni, 8. Singapore, 11. Zambia, 13. Fradi, 15. Aguas, 16. Besa



DECEMBER

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

_____ SHOE SIZE ☐

VERDI'S KIDS BOUNCE BACK

VERDY KAWASAKI and Shimizu S Pulse confirmed their supremacy in Japanese soccer by winning their groups of the J.League Yamazaki Nabisco Cup, even without their national players.

Six of Verdy's squad — **Kazuyoshi Miura, Ramos, Kitazawa, Takeda, Tetsuji Hasthiratani and Tsunami** — went to Qatar for the World Cup qualifiers, and the club looked beyond repair when crashing 5-0 to JEF United in the second game of the Cup series.

Instead, Verdy's youngsters took the opportunity to get their names on the scoresheet, bouncing back to crush Gamba Osaka 5-1, then scoring five away to Bellmare Hiratsuka.

Shimizu, continued their steady progress despite the absence of Horiike, Hasegawa, Sawanobori and Yasutoshi Miura.

Jun Iwashita, only 20, netted five times, including twice against Yokohama Marinos and Urawa Red Diamonds, but injured an ankle after scoring against Flugels and had to sit out the final game.

The other semi-finalists are Yokohama Flugels and Gamba Osaka. Flugels have looked a more incisive team since **Amarilla** came from Olympia of Paraguay.

Flugels always aim for compact, attacking soccer and Amarilla is a good target man. Extra-time defeat in the final match to Grampus Eight did not matter after four straight wins.

Gamba Osaka left their surge very late but qualified on goal difference above Kashima Antlers and Kashiwa Reysol, with a 5-0 win over Sanfrecce Hiroshima in their final match.

On the same day **Zico** scored with a spectacular bicycle kick against Bellmare Hiratsuka, lifting Antlers to a 2-1 victory but not to the semi-finals.

Kashiwa Reysol failed to qualify, but were pleased to have gone so close.

Careca scored four in five games, including the winner against JEF.

There was good news also for Grampus Eight, with **Gary Lineker** scoring four goals in five games.

But he still suffers pain from his old injury in the big toe, even though the recent fracture has mended. Just in case, Nagoya have signed 22-year-old **Elivelton** on a seven-month loan from Sao Paulo. The fee is $350,000.

Manager **Ryuzo Hiraki** said: "Lineker and Jorginho are both liable to injury. We cannot expect Lineker to play every game. I want to use various combinations."

Yokohama Marinos, who had a poor Cup competition, have bought River Plate captain **Gustano Miguel Zapata** on a three-year contract worth around $1.2 million.

Zapata, who rejoins old team-mate **Ramon Diaz**, played for Argentina in the Copa America this year and in 1991.

He returned to Argentina soon after his arrival for the World Cup play-offs, but is due back towards the end of November and will debut in this year's Emperor's Cup.

Urawa Red Diamonds have brought in Slovakian keeper Miroslav Mentel from Dac Dunajska Streda, to join new German signings **Michael Rummenigge** and **Uwe Rahn.**

Rummenigge made an impressive debut, scoring two in the 3-2 defeat at Shimizu S Pulse. The run of nine straight losses ended in the next game, a 3-2 win against Nagoya, when Rummenigge scored the third goal.

Marinos make amends with record victory

JAPAN's Yokohama Marinos put their League Cup woes behind them to crush Semen Padang of Indonesia 11-0 in the Asian Cup-winners' Cup quarter-final second leg.

All the goals came in the first 54 minutes of an astonishing game.

Marinos who lost their rhythm after Argentinian midfielder David Bisconti was substituted, had conceded 12 goals in three League games, and had lost 2-1 to Semen Padang in Indonesia.

This time Marinos made no mistake. The Japanese abandoned their policy of blooding young players in international competition and fielded their best side.

Bisconti ran rings around the hapless Padang defence, scoring the first, setting up the second for Omura, and tapping in the third.

Far from easing up, Marinos pressed home the advantage, and further goals came from Fumitake Miura (2), Everton (3) and Matsuhashi (3). The club's previous record win was 10-0 against Sapporo Mazda in the 1990 Emperor's Cup.

The other East Asian semi-finalist will be one of East Bengal (India), South China (Hong Kong) or Dalian (China). East Bengal secured their quarter-final berth with a 6-2 home win over Iraq's Zewra (aggregate 6-4).

In West Asia, the semi-finalists are Al-Arabi of Qatar (who defeated last year's runner-up, Pirouzi of Iran, 3-2 on aggregate), and Saudi side Al-Qadsia (4-2 aggregate winners over Al-Wehla of Bahrain).

MIKE PLASTOW AND MICHI ISHIJIMA

Brothers earn Cup success

Skipper Hashiratani with the Afro-Asia Cup.

JAPAN confirmed the country's new standing in international football with a narrow but convincing victory over African champions Ivory Coast in the fifth Afro-Asia Nations Cup.

Kazuyoshi Miura's extra-time goal also gave Japan the lift needed before going into the final qualifying round for next year's World Cup.

Ivory Coast were still reeling from their disastrous 4-1 defeat by Nigeria in the World Cup. New manager Martial Paul Yeo had told his side to tighten up and slow down.

Japan, missing key defenders through injuries, had conceded too many goals in practice matches in Spain.

But with captain Tetsuji Hashiratani back in action, the defense looked tight this time. On the left, Kazu's elder brother, Yasutoshi Miura, had a creditable debut in place of injured Satoshi Tsunami.

Japan maintained almost total possession in the first half, but missed several chances.

The game became more even as time passed, although goalmouth incidents were few.

Not until four minutes from the end of extra time did the goal come, when the Miura brothers combined and Kazu slotted the ball calmly past Losseni.

Manager Hans Ooft looked satisfied and said: "We played at 75 to 80 per cent, but it was a good boost for the players confidence."

PREVIOUS AFRO-ASIA RESULTS

	Winner	*Runner-up*
1985	Cameroon	Saudi Arabia
1987	South Korea	Egypt
1989		Not played
1991	Algeria	Iran
1993	Japan	Ivory Coast

J.LEAGUE YAMAZAKI NABISCO CUP

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 2 (Noguchi 26, 113)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Kojima 53).
Att: 10,205.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

KASHIWA REYSOL 3 (Okura 34, 50, 98)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 2 (Mirandinha 74, Iwamoto 83). **Att:** 14,101.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0
VERDY KAWASAKI 0
Att: 12,011. *Aet, Verdy won 4-1 on pens.*

GAMBA OSAKA 3 (og 44, Aleinikov 50, Nagashima 82)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 4 (Alcindo 29, Gaya 35, Carlos 51, Hasegawa 57). **Att:** 40,795.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 3 (Iwashita 34, 53, Marco Antonio 44)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 2 (Rummenigge 60, 77). **Att:** 20,237.

JUBILO IWATA 2 (og 20, Vanenburg 23)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Maeda 18, Moner 44). **Att:** 10,968. *Aet, Flugels won 4-3 on pens.*

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 4 (Lineker 16 pen, 56, Hirano 82, Egawa 88)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Diaz 89). **Att:** 52,063.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

JEF UNITED 3 (Pavel Rehak 30, Ordenewitz 53, Nakanishi 85)
GAMBA OSAKA 4 (Kusaki 41, Flavio 44, Metkov 50, Nagashima 82). **Att:** 9,828.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Mannaka 34)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Wakamatsu 47, Yokouchi 59). **Att:** 14,587.

VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Bismarck 37, Abe 55)
KASHIWA REYSOL 0. **Att:** 10,140.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 3 (Hirose 23, Mizuuchi 37, Rummenigge 51)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 2 (Okayama 47, Lineker 73 pen). **Att:** 9,470.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Sorimachi 41, Yamaguchi 109)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Iwashita 57). **Att:** 50,222.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Bisconti 52, Diaz 68)
JUBILO IWATA 0. **Att:** 13,186.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

KASHIWA REYSOL 1 (Careca 22)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Alcindo 50 pen). **Att:** 14,858. Kashiwa Reysol won 3-2 on pens.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 2 (Iwamoto 10, 79)
VERDY KAWASAKI 4 (Nagai 19, 65, Fujiyoshi 62, Totsuka 72). **Att:** 10,463.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0
JEF UNITED 1 (Ejiri 86). **Att:** 23,455.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

JEF UNITED 0
KASHIWA REYSOL 1 (Careca 55). **Att:** 9,022.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Zico 44, Akita 50)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Bettinho 39. **Att:** 14,729.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Sugimoto 30, Naito 40)
JUBILO IWATA 0. **Att:** 9,270.

GAMBA OSAKA 5 (Nagashima 10, Yamaguchi 20, 63, Metkov 44, Matsunami 83)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0. **Att:** 13,831.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Mochizuki 10)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Yamada 38, Everton 76). **Att:** 9,092.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Pita 110)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 0. **Att:** 14,560.

FINAL TABLES

Group A	P	W	L	F	A
Verdy Kawasaki	6	4	2	13	9
Gamba Osaka	6	4	2	15	13
Kashima Antlers	6	4	2	10	8
Kashiwa Reysol	6	4	2	9	9
JEF United Ichihara	6	2	4	10	13
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	6	1	5	6	13
Group B					
Shimizu S Pulse	5	4	1	13	6
Yokohama Flugels	5	4	1	8	6
Julio Iwata	5	2	3	9	7
Nagoya Grampus Eight	5	2	3	9	9
Yokohama Marinos	5	2	3	7	13
Urawa Red Diamonds	5	1	4	7	12

CHINA

Liaoning earn yet another honour

LIAONING, the most successful soccer club in recent Chinese history, added to their list of honours when winning the nationwide tournament held as part of the Seventh National Games in Beijing.

Since 1984 Liaoning have won seven League championships, as well as taking the FA Cup twice and the Asian Club Cup once, when they defeated Nissan of Japan on a 3-2 aggregate in 1989.

They also shared the National Games title in 1975, with Guandong.

The Liaoning club's base is in Shenyan, formerly Mukden, near the North Korean border, and their players provide the nucleus of the national squad.

Their success in Beijing was fully deserved, but unfortunately there was considerable controversy over the standard of refereeing, with accusations of deliberate bias being brought against certain officials. Apart from that, the tournament was a resounding success.

ZHENG MING

1993 NATIONAL GAMES

Group A: Beijing 0 Tianjin 0 *(Beijing won 5-3 on pens);* Sichuan 0 Huochetou 0 *(Sichuan 5-4);* Tianjin 0 Sichuan 1; Beijing 1 Huochetou 1 *(Beijing 2-1);* Sichuan 1 Beijing 1 *(Sichuan 5-4);* Huochetou 2 Tianjin 1.

Group B: Guandong 1 Shandong 1 *(Guandong 5-4);* Shanghai 2 Jiangsu 1; Shanghai 2 Guangdong 1; Shandong 3 Jiangsu 0; Shanghai 0 Shandong 0 *(Shanghai 5-4);* Guangdong 2 Jiangsu 0.

Group C: Liaoning 2 Henan 0; Jilin 1 August First 0; August First 1 Liaoning 2; Jilin 4 Henan 1; Liaoning 1 Jilin 1 *(Liaoning 4-2);* August First 3 Henan 1.

Quarter-finals: Shandong 4 Sichuan 2; Beijing 2 Jilin 0; Guangdon 2 Shanghai 0; Liaoning 2 August First 1.

Semi-finals: Beijing 0 Shandong 0 *(Beijing 5-3);* Liaoning 2 Guandong 1.

Final: Liaoning 2 Beijing 0.

CHINESE SET LONG-RANGE TARGET

THE CHINESE, booted out of four World Cups by countries a fraction of their size, were planning to introduce professional football to help develop the game in time for the 2002 competition.

The long-range target is part of a 10-year reform strategy devised at an official soccer summit in the northern port of Dalian.

The world's most populous country vowed to dominate Asian soccer by the same year.

The scheme is to be helped by the establishment of 20 professional clubs with up to 500 players, and youth teams at 40 per cent of primary schools and 25 per cent of high schools.

China failed miserably in their first World Cup effort for the 1982 tournament. And fans rioted in 1985 after China were denied a Mexico World Cup final 16 spot by tiny Hong Kong, a loss made double painful by the Chinese territory's status as a British colony.

Long-suffering supporters still wince over China's humiliating 2-1 elimination before the 1990 finals by Qatar, population 300,000.

This year's Asian qualifiers in May and June brought more agony with defeats by Iraq and Yemen, although Klaus Schlappner had his contract renewed in August despite China's failure to reach the tournament's second round.

The 10-year scheme calls for qualifying for the Olympic tournament and finishing in the top eight in 2000 or 2004.

China's Olympic squad is coached by Yugoslav-born Rade Ognanovic, formerly with Cameroon.

NEW ZEALAND

Napier's six-pack

A SIX-GOAL second-half barrage by Napier City Rovers made the 1993 Chatham Cup Final one of the most memorable for years.

Although Christchurch Rangers were featuring in their first final, they had several players who had gained Cup medals with Christchurch United in previous seasons.

Indeed, Rangers had the better of a mistake-ridden first half, and twice went close to scoring with Gary Lund headers.

But their hopes faded as Paul Halford scored after 56 minutes and Darren Fletcher added a second less than two minutes later.

Halford, once with Derby County and the only survivor from Napier's previous Cup triumph, in 1985, went on to complete his hat-trick and was later named Man of the Match. A Martin Akers stab-in during a goalmouth melee and a Fletcher header completed the rout. Only twice before have finals been won by six-goal margins.

Rovers are now pursuing the second leg of a domestic double, having qualified for the Superclub Championship final play-offs with Waitakere City, North Shore United and Waikato United.

PAUL MOON

INDONESIA

J F TAMAELA

Coach out after collapse

CUP WINNERS Semen Padang were humiliated by Yokohama Marinos of Japan in the second round of the Asian Cup-winners Cup, losing 11-0 after winning the first leg 2-1.

Their coach Halilintar Sunawan, was sacked as soon as they returned from Japan. They had defeated Port Saigon of Vietnam 1-0 at home and drawn 1-1. away in the first round.

Last season's champions Arema Malang failed in Asian Champions Cup, 4-1 to Thai Farmers after a 2-2 home draw.

In the first round they beat Quang Nam Dang of Vietnam 1-0 at home and 2-1 in Danang.

Indonesia's semi-professional league, the Galatama, adopted a double round robin system for 1993-94.

All 17 clubs compete in two groups, playing twice at home and twice away. The winner and runner-up of each group compete in the semi-finals.

West Group's teams are Bandung Raya, Acech Putra, Arseto, BPD, Mataram Putra, Medan Jaya, Pelita Jaya, Semen Padang and Warna Agung. East Group's teams are Arema Malang, Aassyabaab, Barito Putra, Gelora Dewata, Mitra, Petrokimia Putra, Putra Mahakam, Pupuk Kaltim.

Semen Padang were thrashed 12-2 on aggregate by Japan's Yokohama Marinos.

PAKISTAN

TWO Bangladeshi clubs have been fined for failing to complete fixtures.

Mohammedan Sports of Dhaka refused to play their Asian Cup-winners Cup second leg against New Radiant in the Maldives, after winning the home tie 8-0.

They claimed they could not afford the cost of travel, but the Asian Football Confederation imposed a fine of £1,500.

Then Abahani withdrew from the Asian Club Championship after being drawn to play against Victory, another team in the Maldives. They were fined £1,000.

AZAM MAHMOOD

INDIA

East Bengal fail at the finish

MOHUN BAGAN beat East Bengal in the all-Calcutta final of the second South India invitational tournament for the Scissors Cup.

Goals by Vijayan and Christopher, from a penalty, within ten minutes of each other, put Mohun Bagan in command, and East Bengal could manage only a late reply by substitute Majhi.

East Bengal had shown the more impressive form in the earlier stages of the tournament, which involved two five-club groups.

They won all their four games in Group B to qualify for a semi-final against JCT Mills of Punjab, second in Group A. Mohun Bagan won two and drew two before meeting Titanium of Kerala, runners-up in the other section.

1993 SCISSORS CUP

Group A: JCT Mills 1, ITI Bangalore 0; Mohun Bagan 2, Kerala Police 0; Mohammedan SC 0 JCT Mills 1; ITI 0 Kerala Police 0; Mohun Bagan 0 Mohammedan SC 0; Mohun Bagan 1 ITI 1; Kerala Police 2 Mohammedan SC 1.
Group B: Titanium 1 Dempo Goa (holders) 0; Mahindra & Mahindra Bombay 1 Southern Ralways Madras 1; East Bengal 2 Titanium 1; Dempo 1 SR 0; East Bengal 3 M & M 0; SR 1 Titanium 1; M & M 1 Dempo 0; East Bengal 2 SR 0; Dempo 1 East Bengal 2; Titanium 2 M & M 1.
Semi finals: Mohun Bagan 1 Titanium 0; East Bengal 1 JCT Mills 0.
Final: Mohun Bagan 2 East Bengal 1.

G.C. DAS

No go for Joe Public

Whatever happened to the People's Game?

When the organisers of World Cup 1994 announced the final stage of their ticket sales plan, it became pretty clear that the average fan, the fan in the street, would be left precisely there. In the street.

Not just because of the prices — which are pretty steep (from $55 to $475). But because of the puny number of tickets being made available to ordinary fans for the final round games.

Consider: Pasadena Rose Bowl (right), site of the 1994 final, has a capacity of approximately 90,000 — yet only "between 5,000 and 10,000 tickets" will be available for general public sale.

WC '94 boss Alan Rothenberg (below) tried to justify the situation by pointing out that, in other major American sporting events, there was no public sale of tickets at all.

So what on earth happens to the other 80,000 tickets?

There's the allotment that FIFA say must go to each national association. Plus a bigger allotment to the finalists, which would seem to pose distribution problems, as the two countries involved can not be known until two days before the final.

Plus . . . an evidently sizeable slab of tickets bought by sponsors and "other commercial affiliates."

That was an arrangement that caused problems in Italy in 1990. Gaping expanses of empty seats at certain games were blamed on sponsors who bought blocks of seats and then either didn't bother to distribute them or handed them out to people who were not interested in attending.

Rothenberg insists that such a thing will not happen in the US, that all the seats will be filled. Of course, he's right as far as the final is concerned.

The overall demand for the two million tickets available within the United States has been phenomenal. And remember, these are tickets for games featuring as yet unknown teams!

The clamour for first-round games staggered Ticketmaster, the organisation in charge of sales.

In a four-hour span on June 13 — the first day of public sales — Ticketmaster said that the dollar value of tickets sold exceeded that of any other event in its history, including Rolling Stones concerts and the Paul McCartney tour.

There will be no such massive influx of money for the 150,000 tickets going on sale within the United States for the quarter-finals and semi-finals, the third place game, and the final. Not at first, anyway.

In announcing the sale of the final-round tickets, Rothenberg made it clear that the problem was almost one of finding a way to hold down the number of applications.

"We're not going to over-advertise," he said.

A huge application form appeared in certain newspapers. Ticket-seekers filled it out (no more than two tickets per game) and returned it — but did not send any money. It's a sort of lottery, but, for legal reasons, it has to be called a random selection process.

All the applications go into a computer-processed draw. The computer will reject duplicate applications. Only the lucky winners — who will be notified before the end of January next year — send money.

Overseas sales (approximately one million tickets) will be made in two ways: through the national soccer associations, and through accredited tour companies.

Full allocation of tickets to each country can only be made once all the qualifers have been completed.

PAUL GARDNER

Vegas draws the powers . . . Max draws the poster

AT FIFA'S special request, the World Cup draw will be held on December 19, among the dazzling neon lights and the slot machines and the showbiz glitter of Las Vegas.

It's all about entertainment, and the likes of Elton John, Rod Stewart and Julio Iglesias — unquestionable soccer fans, all of them — will be there to do the entertaining.

And it will all happen at the decidedly un-Las Vegas hour of noon, so that the show can grab prime evening time on European TV.

As no soccer will be played during the draw, it seems questionable whether it can even be classified as a sports event, but the promoters are claiming that it will draw a worldwide TV audience of up to 600 million.

The draw for Italia '90 pulled in 320 million; for comparison, the opening ceremony for the 1992 Olympics (another sports event that did not feature any sports) drew 720 million.

The irony of all those huge numbers is that they don't seem to have any appeal to *ABC Television* — which is the American network involved in televising the 1994 World Cup.

ABC will not show the draw, relegating it to its cable affiliate, *ESPN*. When *The Wall Street Journal* asked why, an *ABC* spokesman said that the draw was "deathly boring", and that the network would show golf instead (which is not regarded as boring).

Why would that be? The *ABC* spokesman continued: "It's hard enough bringing in good ratings for soccer when there's action . . ."

According to Joseph Smith, who is in charge of entertainment activities for the World Cup, the Las Vegas extravaganza will get under way with a soccer-theme production number. So far, there has been no sign of an official, or unofficial, World Cup '94 theme song.

The official poster, though, has put in a belated appearance. It was officially unveiled in the New York studio of the artist Peter Max.

"What we wanted," said the ubiquitous Rothenberg, once again on hand for a big event, "was an artist who could capture the essence of the US and the event, an artist who was himself a living legend, who could give us rich colours, action, liveliness, and merge all that with the event."

A moment's reverential silence followed the removal of the drapes from the artwork, followed by applause and cheering and whooping (the assembled audience did seem to have a higher proportion of Max's friends than soccer people) while Rothenberg and Max embraced each other.

Max grabbed a paint brush and advanced on his creation, preparing to sign it in front of the television cameras ("What's he going to do, finish it?" came a disembodied comment from the back).

Colourful the poster certainly is — a welcome return to poster basics after the absurdly pretentious artiness of the Mexico 1986 effort, and the sombre black of Italia '90.

A soccer player leaps out of a symbolic world into space. The world has the United States flag draped across it, while out there in space the stars and planets are sparkling. The only words are "World Cup 94".

"I grew up in Shanghai. I was a soccer player, I played full-back and goalkeeper," said Max, better known as the unofficial artist-laureate of the 1960s Age of Aquarius.

His claim to a soccer pedigree was greeted with some scepticism.

Would he call himself a soccer fan? "Yes, well, a dormant fan. Soccer was two-thirds of my life . . ."

When was that? "Up until the age of 10 I mean. Now I'm starting to get back into it."

Since when? "Since about 18 months ago. Since I got the commission for the poster."

"I looked at photographs of players in action. No, I don't remember who they were, I made sketches and worked from them. So that I could get a player who was not particularly European or blond or South American. This is an international sport."

BROOKING TALKBACK

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters. . .

Board bother

DEAR TREVOR — What is happening to our game — all the board-room battles, bribery, bungs and bankruptcy? What is going to happen next? It seems to me that it is the chairmen and other people high up who are causing all the stir: Flashman, Clough, Bernes of Marseille, Sugar and Venables, and the Celtic board.

In the future, clubs are going to have to be very, very cautious when appointing chairmen or directors, instead of appointing the people with the most money.

It's such a shame that more and more clowns with a lot of money are getting involved.

— JAMES SHEPHERD, Inverness, Scotland.

● THERE has been plenty of "dirty washing" publicised in recent months, and of course the bigger the names the greater the headlines. It is extremely difficult to dispense with the link between power and money. Those who invest the most will always demand the major say in matters which affect that investment. The ideal would be for the other members of the board to be voted into position more for their knowledge and know-how in others.

With the huge wages and bonuses now on offer, even after tax, there should be plenty left to survive on, and it can only be pure greed which tempts those involved to sink to such antics. But before the season ends I expect there are still a few more revelations to come about regarding past misdemeanours.

Credit for Africa

DEAR TREVOR — I recently watched Nigeria take on Ghana in the Under-17 World Cup finals and was treated to a real game of football: a fast, hard tackling get-the-ball-and-beat-the-man type of match.

African soccer is a game of entertainment containing works of soccer wizardry, diving headers and Pele bicycle kicks.

European soccer is effective but lacks the entertainment. I'm not attracted to long-ball, run-your-lungs-out, defensive, keep-possession-kill-time soccer.

Let's give credit where credit is due, African teams deserve recognition (Cameroon are not the only team) and coverage, and above all respect!

— EMILE GREAVES, Pickering, Ontario,Canada.

● I don't think anyone can doubt the growing strength of African football and I'm sure Nigeria, Cameroon and Morocco will all illustrate that point in America. Above all, teams seem to enjoy their football and are encouraged to show the full range of skills. With an abundance of flair and close control they are always capable of producing exciting football. Your description of European soccer is somewhat harsh and does not really apply to many countries. Mind you I can think of a few English teams where that is the case.

No samba sales

DEAR TREVOR — Why do English clubs never buy South American players such as Bebeto, Zamorano, Lattore, Asprilla, Batistuta, Sosa etc, bearing in mind they are quality, skilful, and cheaper than many Europeans?

— MOHAMMED SALIM DAD, Moseley, Birmingham.

● IT IS quite an impressive list of players you have named. Adapting to the way of life in England is important, and the weather is a key issue. Wind, rain and icy blasts are not typical conditions for a Latin American footballer. Naturally the style of play in England can tend to restrict the more intricate skills of those players you mention. If a South American player does decide to uproot and move to Europe, then often they are tempted by the somewhat greater rewards that can be found in Italy or Spain.

Bravo Glassmann

DEAR TREVOR — So Marseille are stripped of their title and denied the opportunity to defend Bernard Tapie's beloved Champions Cup.

Bravo Jacques Glassmann, you have done world football a great service in exposing Bernes, Eydelie and the rest of that corrupt mob who have degraded French and European football.

Now that the European Champions have been exposed as cheats, it may prompt second thoughts by other potential frauds.

The whole episode has thrown a cloud of suspicion over Marseille and Tapie. One cannot help but be dubious about their 6-0 win over CSKA Moscow in the Champions League last season, for example.

Maybe it's time for UEFA to declare the 1993 Champions Cup void.

— BILLY McELLIGOTT, Mallow, Republic of Ireland.

● I DOUBT whether UEFA would make the 1993 Champions Cup void, and their suspension from this season's competition is a major punishment and has been a financial catastrophe for Marseille. If all the allegations are confirmed then it must surely prompt those second thoughts you mention, for anyone foolish enough to be contemplating a similar reckless deed. It has been a sad period for French football.

Fixture pile-up

DEAR TREVOR — Nigeria qualified for the World Cup for the first time. They have also qualified for the African Nations Cup in Tunisia two months before the World Cup.

Is it true that a FIFA rule states that a player can only be released to play no more than seven internationals in a calendar year? If this is true then most of our best players will not be in Tunisia.

Do you think this rule is fair considering that to Africans the Nations Cup is almost as important as the World Cup? Maybe FIFA should think of altering this rule when two very important competitions occur in the same year.

— DAYO OKE, Leyton, London.

● I ACCEPT your concerns about a below-strength Nigeria participating but must question the timing of the tournament at a time when European Leagues are just coming to their climax. If those African players are earning lucrative contracts in Europe there has to be some sensible compromise about the number of times they can be released.

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SPOTLIGHT ON
ERNEST CHIRWALI

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

Heads I win . . . the gifted Ernest Chirwali of Mamelodi Sundowns and Malawi.

ERNEST CHIRWALI, one of Malawi's most gifted players, is back in international soccer.

He has had a remarkable career, but his decision to play professional soccer in South Africa while that country was still politically isolated cost him wider recognition.

Chirwali, now 28, was a teenager with Blantyre-based Hardware Stars when he made his national debut in a World Cup tie against Madagsacar.

He quickly went on to establish himself as a regular midfielder in the national team, but after six caps he was one of the first Africans to run the risk of a FIFA ban by leaving his native land and trekking south to South Africa's National Soccer League.

In those days, South African clubs were able to recruit players from other countries without having to go through the formalities of a transfer and an international clearance.

Expulsion from FIFA meant sanctions could not be applied to clubs in South Africa, and as a result a trickle of players headed south, sometimes crossing borders on foot or in car boots. Later that trickle became a flood. Chirwali was among the first, signing for Welkom Rovers, a struggling club in the First Division, in 1984, then soon moving to Bloemfontein Celtic in the Orange Free State.

Within one season he had inspired Celtic to their first major trophy, with a 2-1 win over African Wanderers in the Mainstay Cup Final, and earned himself the Footballer of the Year award.

But Chirwali had bigger plans even in those days and used a false South African passport to move to the Italian regional league, with AS Bassano, in 1987. He spent a full season there, playing under the name Ernest Molemela — the same surname as the fiery owner of Celtic, Petrus.

The ruse was uncovered by the South African press and Bassano, for whom Chirwali netted 11 times, sent him back to Bloemfontein. FIFA, strangely, did nothing.

Chirwali was quickly back into his stride at Celtic as the team rose from bottom to finish a respectable eighth in the 1987 season and a best-ever fifth the year after.

At the start of the 1989 season, Chirwali moved to Mamelodi Sundowns, of Pretoria, for a then record $60,000.

Sundowns lost in the final of the Bob Save Super Bowl (the re-named Mainstay Cup) to Moroka Swallows at the end of 1989, but were champions the next season, as well as taking the Top Eight Cup and JPS Cup.

The possibility of a return to international football for South Africa put Chirwali and his ilk in a spot — their status posed problems for a now respectable South African FA.

But under a solution agreed with CAF, South African clubs were able to hold "illegal workers" for a nominal fee paid to the previous employer.

Chirwali's agent paid off Hardware Stars and obtained international clearance with the idea of hawking him around Europe. But Sundowns protested to FIFA and Chirwali was formally found to be a Mamelodi man, not for sale without authorisation.

Sundowns flatly refused to let the player go and after more than a year out of South African football, Chirwali — by then a South African citizen — was forced to make his way home to Johannesburg, having learnt another bitter lesson.

His return to Sundowns came finally in April and soon after that he was called to the Malawian team for their final two African Nations Cup qualifying games.

Chirwali also played in a friendly international against Swaziland, pushing his tally to nine caps and finally getting back, after an absence of close on 10 years, to the international stage.

There is no doubt that had he chosen a more conventional path, Chirwali would have won a place among Africa's greats.

MARK GLEESON

PRO-FILE

Ernest Mtawali CHIRWALI

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS & MALAWI

Born: October 10, 1964, in Blantyre

International Caps: Nine

HONOURS

South African Championship: 1990

Bob Save Super Bowl: 1985

BP Top 8 Cup: 1990

JPS Knockout Cup: 1990

Footballer of the Year: 1985

SIERRA LEONE

The Norway of Africa

MANY soccer-loving Africans are saying that Sierra Leone are the Norway of the continent. They have a point.

After all, Norway have been upsetting allegedly stronger teams in their World Cup group. Sierra Leone, in recent times, have been performing footballing wonders, too.

Even before Sierra Leone met Togo in their last African Nations Cup qualifying match, they had already gained a place for Tunisia '94.

Never mind that Togo were suspended from the group, or that Algeria (originally second) were later disqualified. The fact was that Sierra Leone had surpassed themselves during that qualifying slog, winning many admirers.

All smiles . . . the Sierra Leone squad and officials pose for the camera.

They were indeed lucky that the current head of state, Valentine Strasser loves soccer, and the National Provisional Ruling Council are anxious to see the country among the soccer elite in Africa.

Sierra Leone in the World Cup '98? Possibly. It might not be a dream. Sheffield Wednesday's young Chris Bart-Williams (from Sierra Leone, though a Briton) would be delighted if such a dream came true.

They are certainly ready to pull out all the stops to ensure that they continue to do well, with players such as Gbessay Sesay of Vitoria Setubal in Portugal, John Dumbuya of Chambery in France, and three in Belgium — Ibrakim Koroma of FC Boom and Lamin Conteh and Rashin Wurie of Beerschot.

In qualifying for Tunisia, the team had outstanding goalkeeper Osaio Marah to thank most. He made several spectacular saves, and not a single match was lost during the series.

The performances against Algeria, one of Africa's

NORTH AFRICA

All change for Algeria

EXPULSION from the African Nations Cup finals has led Algeria to dissolve their football federation executive committee and fire the joint coaches, Meziane Ighil and Aberahamen Mehdaoui.

They have been replaced by a Russian, Evgeni Rogov, who was in charge when the Algerians qualified for the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain. Rogov had been coaching Wydad Mostaganem.

Algeria were expelled after being found guilty of playing suspended defender Mourad Khalef in a qualifying match against Senegal last January.

The ban was announced after the Algerians had qualified for the final tournament, finishing second in group one behind leaders Sierra Leone.

An appeal to the Confederation of African Football's annual meeting was unsuccessful.

MOROCCO

MOROCCO put in studious preparations ahead of their World Cup qualifying decider against Zambia in Casablanca, beating Mali 3-0 in a friendly and then drawing 0-0 against Algeria.

The Moroccans then went on a training camp in France.

Former champions Royal Armed Forces have hired Mario Wilson, once coach of both Portugal and Benfica, in their bid for the 1993-94 title.

Tanger have signed veteran Algerian libero Fodil Megharia from Tunisia's Club Africain.

Megharia has 76 caps for Algeria and won an African Champions Cup medal in 1991, with Club Africain.

best, were superb, and the 1-0 home win — John Sama scored — meant that a national holiday was declared. It was a remarkable victory; a bit like Finland managing to defeat England, for example.

Then Sierra Leone played in Annaba, Algeria, and brought off a goalless draw. Countries such as Nigeria and Cameroon would be proud of such a result. Even Ghana could not hold Algeria in Algiers.

The remaining matches were more or less a formality. Sierra Leone defeated Guinea Bissau 2-0, drew 1-1 with Senegal, and duly qualified.

By then Togo had been shown the way out.

Sierra Leone are ready to give a good account of themselves next year. They have the motivation, the ability and the players to do it.

OMOSEYE BOLAJI

Sport's giant strides

HOLDERS Africa Sports of Ivory Coast look set for an African Cup-winners Cup Final showdown with Egypt's Al Ahly.

The Ivorians, funded by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny's family, eased into the semi-finals with a 4-1 aggregate win over JS Kabylie of Algeria.

Sports, who have five imports from Nigeria and Congo, now take on Jomo Cosmos of South Africa.

Cosmos are playing with a squad of only 15, because the South African FA failed to lodge seven new registrations with the Confederation of African Football in time for the quarter-finals.

In the first leg against Daring Club Motema Pembe, they lost only 2-1, with 37-year-old goalkeeper Bryan Parry — formerly of Southend United and Crystal Palace — playing his first game for nine months.

Parry had moved from Johannesburg to Cape Town, and took a job in the restaurant trade.

He had little to do as Cosmos more than held their own at Kinshasa's Tate Rafael Stadium, even scoring first through Chris Mwakapuki — his eighth goal of the tournament, in six matches, making him the leading scorer overall in the three African club competitions.

Motema Pembe eventually got two goals, including a penalty, but lost 1-0 in the return and went out on away goals.

They were affected by a mini-strike in the first leg, with Masudi Saidi, Zaire's exciting new centre forward, sitting out the game with a suspension imposed when he led a demand for new cash.

Al Ahly, winners of the Cup-winners Cup three times in a row in the mid-1980s, meet El Kanemi Warriors of Nigeria in the other semi-final.

The Egyptians had little trouble in disposing of El Merreikh from Sudan, 2-1 away and 5-1 at home.

Their youthful team have some way to go to challenge Zamalek in domestic competition, but have the capability to take a fourth Cup.

Warriors narrowly defeated Stade Tunisien 2-1 on aggregate, with a vital early goal from Barnabas Imenger, who recently won a first full cap for Nigeria, in the second leg.

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

CAMEROON had limited success on a pre-World Cup warm-up tour of the west coast of the United States.

With a squad of seven full internationals and the rest made up of youth internationals, the Indomitable Lions won their opening match, against former American Professional Soccer League champions San Francisco Blackhawks, 3-1. But they lost 3-0 in an unofficial international, and 1-0 against Mexico in Los Angeles. Samuel Ekeme was sent off after 25 minutes, for a professional foul.

ZAIRE

ZAIRE are to embark on elaborate preparations for the 1994 African Nations Cup Finals in Tunisia. The national squad are to assemble for a training camp this month, using only players from the domestic league.

In early January, internationals now playing in South Africa will join the squad, and later many of the Zaireans playing in Europe will be added. Zaire probably will do their final training sessions in Morocco en route to Tunisia.

In the national championship, divided into 11 provinces, the final round's main contenders are TP Mazembe from Shaba and Vita Club from Kinshasa.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Draw is kind to Tunisia

HOSTS Tunisia could not have asked for a better draw in the African Nations Cup finals.

They are in Group A with Mali and Zaire, and look to have a comfortable path through to the quarter-finals.

Mali and Zaire are not exactly the most formidable of opposition and the Tunisians are the envy of the other favourites in the tournament.

Nigeria, for example, are paired with Egypt and newcomers Gabon, while Ghana have to face Senegal and either Burundi or Guinea, who have to play off after finishing joint top of their qualifying section. The defending champions, Ivory Coast, meet Zambia and Sierra Leone.

The top two teams in each of their four groups go through to the quarter-final stage.

Group A: Tunisia, Mali, Zaire.

Group B: Egypt, Gabon, Nigeria.

Group C: Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Zambia.

Group D: Ghana, Senegal, Burundi or Guinea.

The tournament starts on March 25, with Tunisia playing Mali, and the final is in Tunis on April 10.

MARK GLEESON

TWO SET RECORDS

CLUBS from Angola and Ethiopia have reached the semi-finals of an African club competition for the first time.

The fairy-tale story of Atletico Sport Aviacao from war-torn Angola continued with a shoot-out win over favourites Gor Mahia in the CAF Cup. Both teams failed to score in 180 minutes before Aviacao won 4-2 on penalties.

Ethiopia's Insurance also set a record with their qualification for the semi-finals, via a 2-1 aggregate win over Zumunta of Niger.

Insurance won the first leg 2-0 in Addis Ababa and held out for 81 minutes of the return in Niamey before Hamissou Labo converted a penalty.

But it was not enough for Zumunta, and Insurance are now up against Stella Abdijan of the Ivory Coast.

Stella were not expected to clinch a semi-final place after drawing 1-1 at home with Mblinga of Gabon, but two second-half goals in Libreville put them ahead on aggregate.

Mbilinga scored in injury time, but by then it was too late and Stella qualified on away goals.

Aviacao meet Simba, first Tanzanian team in 15 years to reach an African club competition semi-final.

EAST AFRICA

TANZANIA

YOUNG AFRICANS of Dar-es-Salaam retained their mainland title in a dramatic finish with Simba SC.

Yanga had a slightly superior goal difference going into the final round of matches, with both teams tied on points, but had to travel for their final match while Simba had a home encounter against Pan African.

Simba won, as predicted, 2-0, but Young Africans also were victorious.

In the Cup, there were shock defeats for Feroviario de Gaza and Desportivo Maputo.

Costa do Sol won the first leg of the Super Cup against Clube de Gaza 5-0.

SWAZILAND

TINY Swaziland lost 1-0 at home in a friendly against Zimbabwe, as part of their silver jubilee independence celebrations.

Zimbabwe, missing six first choice regulars, overwhelmed the Swazis, watched by their youthful King Mswati III, at times, but took an hour to score, through Vitalis Takawira after a mistake by keeper Robson Dlakudi.

MOZAMBIQUE

South — Final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa do Sol	22	16	2	4	41	12	34
Ferro. de Maputo	22	14	5	3	45	16	33
Matchedje	22	14	4	4	37	15	32
Desp. de Maputo	22	13	5	4	47	16	31
Maxaquene	22	12	7	3	34	10	31
Clube de Gaza	22	9	9	4	29	17	27
Ferroviario de Gaza	22	10	1	11	25	25	21
Aguia Douro	22	7	6	9	17	25	20
Conseng	22	5	4	13	21	20	14
Desportivo de Gaza	22	3	3	16	17	66	9
Ferro. de Inhambane	22	2	3	17	7	52	7
Cometal/Mometal	22	0	5	17	8	57	5

MARK GLEESON surveys the situation in the club competitions

NIGERIAN STORES- a story of success

THIS could well turn out to be the year when everything finally came right for Nigerian football.

This great nation, for so long the potential powerhouse of the African continent, have booked a place in the World Cup finals. And at club level they are in with a chance for a first African Champions Cup.

Surprisingly, Nigeria have been represented in 24 of the 29 events since the first was held in 1964, but still have not won the trophy.

Enugu Rangers were beaten finalists in 1975, losing to Hafia Conakry, Shooting Stars narrowly lost in 1984, to Zamalek of Egypt and Iwanyanwu Nationale from Owerrie were defeated by Entente Setif of Algeria in 1988.

This year, Nigeria are back on track and have one of their best contenders in years, popular Lagos club Stationery Stores. They ousted defending champions Wydad of Morocco in the second round, and fancied outsiders AS Sogara of Gabon in the quarter-finals.

Their away-goals win over the Gabonese champions stretched their total to 13 in six matches, with Ezekiel Alamu sharing top spot as the tournament's leading scorer, on four. Stores scored two vital away goals in the first leg against AS Sogara, who had put in considerable training before the match including a few days in South Africa.

Sogara won that match 3-2, but making up the deficit proved a relatively modest task for Stores, with Ghanaian import Kewsi Bonsu scoring the only goal of the return. They now meet Cairo's Zamalek, the only remaining Arab team left.

Zamalek pulverised Mouloudia Oran of Algeria in their quarter-final, 5-1 on aggregate after a 4-0 victory at home.

The Egyptians have an experienced squad, with World Cup veterans Hesham Yaken, Ahmed Ramzy, Ashraf Kasem and Gamal Abdelhamid, plus Ayman Mansour, who got both goals against Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa in the second round, and Nigeria international Emmanuel Amunike.

For him, the return home for the second leg of the semi-final will provide a showcase for the critical Nigerian supporters.

In the other semi-final ASEC Abidjan of Ivory Coast face Asante Kotoko — a repeat of their emotive quarter-final last year, when the Ivorians won in spectacular fashion.

Kotoko were seemingly on their way to a semi-final place after a 2-1 win in Abdijan, but ASEC came back with a memorable 3-2 away victory.

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP

Quarter-finals

Zamalek (Egy) v Mouloudia d'Oran (Alg) 4-0 1-1
Zamalek 5-1 on agg

AS Sogara (Gab) v Stationery Stores (Nig) 3-2 0-1
Agg: 3-3, Stores on away goals

Nakivubo Villa (Uga) v ASEC Abidjan (IC) 1-1
Villa withdrew from second leg, ASEC go through

Nkana Red Devils (Uga) v Asante Kotoko (Gha) 1-0 0-3
Kotoko 3-1 on agg

Leading scorers
4: Ipaye Wasiu (AS Sogara), Ekekiel Alamu (Stationery Stores)

AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS CUP

Quarter-finals

El Kanemi Warriors (Nig) v Stade Tunisien (Tun) 1-0 1-1
Warriors 2-1 on agg

El Merreikh (Sud) v Al Ahly (Egy) 1-2 1-5
Al Ahly 7-2 on agg

Daring Club Motema Pembe (Zai) v Jomo Cosmos (SA) ... 2-1 0-1
Agg: 2-2, Cosmos on away goals

Africa Sport (IC, holders) v JS Kabylie (Alg) 4-0 0-1
Africa Sport 4-1 on agg

Leading scorer
8: Chris Mwakupuki (Jomo Cosmos)

CAF CUP

Quarter-finals

Stella Abidjan (IC) v Mbilinga (GB) 1-1 2-2
Stella on away goals

Insurance (Eth) v Zumunta (Niger) 2-0 0-1
Insurance 2-1 on agg

Simba (Tan) v USM Harrach (Alg) 3-0 0-2
Simba 3-2 on agg

Atletico Sport Aviacao (Ang) v Gor Mahia (Ken) 0-0 0-0
Aviacao 4-2 on pens

Leading scorer
5: Mark Williams (Hellenic)

Three go through

THERE will be two familiar faces from the African continent at next year's World Cup finals, and a fresh one as well.

The qualifying tournament ended with Cameroon and Morocco, twice finalists at the World Cup, being joined by newcomers Nigeria in the US next June.

All three places were decided on a dramatic weekend.

Nigeria were first to book their place, beating African champions Ivory Coast on goal difference after their final match against Algeria ended 1-1.

George Finidi, recently bought by Ajax Amsterdam, scored an early goal to settle Nigerian nerves. They conceded an equaliser in the final 20 minutes, but were never under any real threat. This giant West African country, with seemingly unlimited playing resources, finally lived up to potential, and will be the strongest, on paper, of the three African representatives.

Cameroon, despite continued bickering over salaries and bonuses with their French-based contingent, secured their place at the expense of Zimbabwe, who needed to win the final match.

Francois Omam-Biyik netted twice in the opening 25 minutes past Bruce Grobbelaar, then was carried off after some tough tackling.

Zimbabwe had young midfielder Norman Mapaza sent off for a foul, and Reinhard Fabisch was banished from the dugout as the tension grew.

Substitute Adam Ndlovu, one of three brothers involved in the match, got a goal in the 85th minute, but Kessaock Mabaong celebrated his recall to the Cameroonian side with a third goal.

The victory set off wild celebrations across the country, and President Paul Biya declared a public holiday.

The dramatic finale came at the imposing Mohammed V Stadium in Casablanca, where Zambia needed a draw to qualify ahead of Morocco.

The Zambians, rebuilt after the April air disaster, were favourites to pull off the draw. Even before the match there was a tense atmosphere, following protests about Gabonese referee Jean Diramba.

Gabon and Zambia have been at diplomatic loggerheads over the official investigation into the air crash just off the Gabonese coast, and Zambia felt that the referee would be biased.

There was no quarrel with the Moroccan goal, scored by Abdelsalam Laghrissi in the 50th minute, but plenty of Zambian protests when captain Kalusha Bwalya was seemingly tripped in the area in the closing stages, but denied a penalty.

That decision sparked widespread demonstrations in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, and a protest to FIFA over Diramba's handling of the match.

NSL RESULTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

CAPE TOWN SPURS 3 (Bigu 56, 68, Nyathi 78)
WELKOM EAGLES 1 (Ncube 44)

DYNAMOS 0
AMAZULU 0

KAIZER CHIEFS 2 (September 40, Khumalo 82)
WITBANK ACES 2 (Shili 64, Moreko 89)

ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Goliath 63 og, Zwane 82)
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 3 (Moosa 7, Niemach 16, Petersen 38 pen)

QWA QWA STARS 1 (Tsotetsi 55)
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 1 (P Masinga 57)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

DYNAMOS 0
KAIZER CHIEFS 0

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

AMAZULU 1 (Chirwa 66)
ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Nsunda 42)

CAPE TOWN SPURS 5 (M Rodrigues 14, 30, Nyathi 15, Mngomeni 54, 62)
WITS UNIVERSITY 0

PRETORIA CITY 1 (Randall 58)
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 5 (Modau 35, 50, 52, 68, 84)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0
QWA QWA STARS 0

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 0
DYNAMOS 1 (Morodi 12)

HELLENIC 4 (Young 5, 61, Bester 13, Jantjies 30)
WELKOM EAGLES 2 (Mafale 37, Moshodi 51)

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 1 (P Masinga 67)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0

MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Sekano 77)
UMTATA BUCKS 0

WITBANK ACES 0
AMAZULU 1 (Magagula 86)

WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Batchelo 80)
ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Rathelele 69, Mncwango 77)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (Dube 63)
PRETORIA CITY 3 (Maake 16, 62, Steenkamp 69)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

CAPE TOWN SPURS 2 (Bartlett 34, 66)
DYNAMOS 1 (Motale 89)

ORLANDO PIRATES 0
PRETORIA CITY 0

WITBANK ACES 0
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 2 (Moosa 34, Petersen 61)

WITS UNIVERSITY 2 (Chafunya 80, Zwane 85)
HELLENIC 1 (Bester 19)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

AMAZULU 0
JOMO COSMOS 0

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (Chirwali 47, 74)
KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (Radebe 79 pen)

MOROKA SWALLOWS 2 (Ramasike 20, Rapelego 28)
VAAL PROFESSIONALS 0

SANTOS 0
QWA QWA STARS 2 (Ngaduane 48, 77)

UMTATA BUCKS 3 (William Mugeyi 20, Rula 42, 84)
WELKOM EAGLES 0

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 2 (Diamini, Larsen)
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

DYNAMOS 0
WITS UNIVERSITY 2 (Nikolic 36, Chafunya 85)

WELKOM EAGLES 0
WITBANK ACES 3 (Shili 2, Peer)

QWA QWA STARS 3 (Ngaduane 3)
HELLENIC 2 (Bester, D Byrne)

CAPE TOWN SPURS 0
KAZIER CHIEFS 1 (Zviripayi 71)

AMAZULU 1 (Tsoane 30)
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 0

PRETORIA CITY 0
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 1 (Nakhumwa 53)

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 1 (Modukanele 66)
VAAL PROFESSIONS 1 (Jowa 85)

ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Silent 86)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 1 (Dwalya 20)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

AMAZULU 0
HELLENIC 0

NSL CASTLE LEAGUE– *First Division*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moroka Swallows	29	16	9	4	33	19	41
Mamelodi Sundowns	30	17	6	7	52	26	40
AmaZulu	29	12	11	6	33	27	35
Kaizer Chiefs	28	13	8	7	34	35	34
Pretoria City	31	11	12	8	33	32	34
Orlando Pirates	29	11	11	7	37	31	33
Hellenic	29	10	11	8	44	37	31
Chatsworth Ran.	31	7	17	7	35	30	31
Cape Town Spurs	29	10	10	9	36	28	30
Umtata Bucks	28	10	10	8	36	30	30
Wits University	30	12	5	13	28	35	29
Witbank Aces	30	10	8	12	39	41	28
Vaal Professionals	29	9	9	11	34	35	27
Bloemfontein C.	28	9	9	10	25	31	27
D'Alberton Callies	28	10	7	11	29	37	27
Dynamos	29	7	12	10	34	32	26
Qwa Qwa Stars	30	5	14	11	27	31	24
Jomo Cosmos	28	7	10	11	25	32	24
Santos	27	6	11	10	21	28	23
Welkom Eagles	30	1	6	23	21	67	8

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1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GROUPS

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1

16.08.92 Estonia v Switzerland 0-6
09.09.92 Switzerland v Scotland 3-1
14.10.92 Italy v Switzerland 2-2
14.10.92 Scotland v Portugal 0-0
25.10.92 Malta v Estonia 0-0
18.11.92 Scotland v Italy 0-0
18.11.92 Switzerland v Malta 3-0
19.12.92 Malta v Italy 1-2
24.01.93 Malta v Portugal 0-1
17.02.93 Scotland v Malta 3-0
24.02.93 Portugal v Italy 1-3
24.03.93 Italy v Malta 6-1
31.03.93 Switzerland v Portugal 1-1
14.04.93 Italy v Estonia 2-0
17.04.93 Malta v Switzerland 0-2
28.04.93 Portugal v Scotland 5-0
01.05.93 Switzerland v Italy 1-0
12.05.93 Estonia v Malta 0-1
19.05.93 Estonia v Scotland 0-3
02.06.93 Scotland v Estonia 3-1
19.06.93 Portugal v Malta 4-0
05.09.93 Estonia v Portugal 0-2
08.09.93 Scotland v Switzerland 1-1
22.09.93 Estonia v Italy 0-3
13.10.93 Portugal v Switzerland 1-0
13.10.93 Italy v Scotland 3-1
10.11.93 Portugal v Estonia
17.11.93 Italy v Portugal
17.11.93 Malta v Scotland
17.11.93 Switzerland v Estonia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	9	6	2	1	21	7	14
Switzerland	9	5	3	1	19	6	13
Portugal	8	5	2	1	15	4	12
Scotland	9	3	3	3	12	13	9
Malta	9	1	1	7	3	21	3
Estonia	8	0	1	7	1	20	1

GROUP 2

09.09.92 Norway v San Marino 10-0
23.09.92 Norway v Holland 2-1
23.09.92 Poland v Turkey 1-0
07.10.92 San Marino v Norway 0-2
14.10.92 England v Norway 1-1
14.10.92 Holland v Poland 2-2
28.10.92 Turkey v San Marino 4-1
18.11.92 England v Turkey 4-0
16.12.92 Turkey v Holland 1-3
17.02.93 England v San Marino 6-0
24.02.93 Holland v Turkey 3-1
10.03.93 San Marino v Turkey 0-0
24.03.93 Holland v San Marino 6-0
31.03.93 Turkey v England 0-2
28.04.93 England v Holland 2-2
28.04.93 Norway v Turkey 3-1
28.04.93 Poland v San Marino 1-0
19.05.93 San Marino v Poland 0-3
29.05.93 Poland v England 1-1
02.06.93 Norway v England 2-0
09.06.93 Holland v Norway 0-0
08.09.93 England v Poland 3-0
22.09.93 Norway v Poland 1-0
22.09.93 San Marino v Holland 0-7
13.10.93 Holland v England 2-0
13.10.93 Poland v Norway 0-3
27.10.93 Turkey v Poland 2-1
10.11.93 Turkey v Norway
17.11.93 San Marino v England
17.11.93 Poland v Holland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORWAY	9	7	2	0	24	3	16
Holland	9	5	3	1	26	8	13
England	9	4	3	2	19	8	11
Poland	9	3	2	4	9	12	8
Turkey	9	2	1	6	9	18	5
San Marino	9	0	1	8	1	39	1

Norway qualify for finals

GROUP 3

22.04.92 Spain v Albania 3-0
28.04.92 Northern Ireland v Lithuania 2-2
26.05.92 Rep. of Ireland v Albania 2-0
03.06.92 Albania v Lithuania 1-0
12.08.92 Latvia v Lithuania 1-2
26.08.92 Latvia v Denmark 0-0
09.09.92 Rep. of Ireland v Latvia 4-0
09.09.92 Northern Ireland v Albania 3-0
23.09.92 Latvia v Spain 0-0
23.09.92 Lithuania v Denmark 0-0
14.10.92 Denmark v Rep. of Ireland 0-0
14.10.92 Northern Ireland v Spain 0-0
28.10.92 Lithuania v Latvia 1-1
11.11.92 Albania v Latvia 1-1
18.11.92 Northern Ireland v Denmark 0-1
18.11.92 Spain v Rep. of Ireland 0-0
16.12.92 Spain v Latvia 5-0
17.02.93 Albania v Northern Ireland 1-2
24.02.93 Spain v Lithuania 5-0
31.03.93 Denmark v Spain 1-0
31.03.93 Rep. of Ireland v N. Ireland 3-0
14.04.93 Denmark v Latvia 2-0
14.04.93 Lithuania v Albania 3-1
28.04.93 Rep. of Ireland v Denmark 1-1
28.04.93 Spain v Northern Ireland 3-1
15.05.93 Latvia v Albania 0-0
25.05.93 Lithuania v Northern Ireland 0-1
26.05.93 Albania v Rep. of Ireland 1-2
02.06.93 Denmark v Albania 4-0
02.06.93 Latvia v Northern Ireland 1-2
02.06.93 Lithuania v Spain 0-2
09.06.93 Latvia v Rep. of Ireland 0-2
16.06.93 Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland 0-1
25.08.93 Denmark v Lithuania 4-0
08.09.93 Albania v Denmark 0-1
08.09.93 Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania 2-0
08.09.93 Northern Ireland v Latvia 2-0
22.09.93 Albania v Spain 1-5
13.10.93 Denmark v Northern Ireland 1-0
13.10.93 Rep. of Ireland v Spain 1-3
17.11.93 N. Ireland v Rep. of Ireland
17.11.93 Spain v Denmark

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	11	7	4	0	15	1	18
Spain	11	7	3	1	26	4	17
Rep. of Ireland	11	7	3	1	18	5	17
N. Ireland	11	5	2	4	13	12	12
Lithuania	12	2	3	7	8	21	7
Latvia	12	0	5	7	4	21	5
Albania	12	1	2	9	6	26	4

GROUP 4

22.04.92 Belgium v Cyprus 1-0
06.05.92 Romania v Faroe Islands 7-0
20.05.92 Romania v Wales 5-1
03.06.92 Faroe Islands v Belgium 0-3
18.06.92 Faroe Islands v Cyprus 0-2
02.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Belgium 1-2
09.09.92 Wales v Faroe Islands 6-0
23.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands 4-0
14.10.92 Belgium v Romania 1-0
14.10.92 Cyprus v Wales 0-1
14.11.92 Romania v Czechoslovakia 1-1
18.11.92 Belgium v Wales 2-0
29.11.92 Cyprus v Romania 1-4
13.02.93 Cyprus v Belgium 0-3
24.03.93 Cyprus v Czechoslovakia 1-1
31.03.93 Wales v Belgium 2-0
14.04.93 Romania v Cyprus 2-1
25.04.93 Cyprus v Faroe Islands 3-1
28.04.93 Czechoslovakia v Wales 1-1
22.05.93 Belgium v Faroe Islands 3-0
02.06.93 Czechoslovakia v Romania 5-2
06.06.93 Faroe Islands v Wales 0-3
16.06.93 Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia 0-3
08.09.93 Wales v Czechoslovakia 2-2
08.09.93 Faroe Islands v Romania 0-4
13.10.93 Romania v Belgium 2-1
13.10.93 Wales v Cyprus 2-0
27.10.93 Czechoslovakia v Cyprus 3-0
17.11.93 Wales v Romania
17.11.93 Belgium v Czechoslovakia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	9	7	0	2	16	5	14
Romania	9	6	1	2	27	11	13
Czechoslovakia	9	4	4	1	21	9	12
Wales	9	5	2	2	18	10	12
Cyprus	10	2	1	7	8	18	5
Faroe Islands	10	0	0	10	1	38	0

GROUP 5

13.05.92 Greece v Iceland 1-0
03.06.92 Hungary v Iceland 1-2
09.09.92 Luxembourg v Hungary 0-3
07.10.92 Iceland v Greece 0-1
14.10.92 Russia v Iceland 1-0
28.10.92 Russia v Luxembourg 2-0
11.11.92 Greece v Hungary 0-0
17.02.93 Greece v Luxembourg 2-0
31.03.93 Hungary v Greece 0-1
14.04.93 Luxembourg v Russia 0-4
28.04.93 Russia v Hungary 3-0
20.05.93 Luxembourg v Iceland 1-1
23.05.93 Russia v Greece 1-1
02.06.93 Iceland v Russia 1-1
16.06.93 Iceland v Hungary 2-0
08.09.93 Hungary v Russia 1-3
08.09.93 Iceland v Luxembourg 1-0
12.10.93 Luxembourg v Greece 1-3
27.10.93 Hungary v Luxembourg 1-0
17.11.93 Greece v Russia

★ *Yugoslavia excluded due to UN sanctions.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RUSSIA	7	5	2	0	15	3	12
GREECE	7	5	2	0	9	2	12
Iceland	8	3	2	3	7	6	8
Hungary	8	2	1	5	6	11	5
Luxembourg	8	0	1	7	2	17	1

Russia & Greece qualify for finals.

GROUP 6

14.05.92 Finland v Bulgaria 0-3
09.09.92 Bulgaria v France 2-0
09.09.92 Finland v Sweden 0-1
07.10.92 Sweden v Bulgaria 2-0
14.10.92 France v Austria 2-0
28.10.92 Austria v Israel 5-2
11.11.92 Israel v Sweden 1-3
14,11.92 France v Finland 2-1
02.12.92 Israel v Bulgaria 0-2
17.02.93 Israel v France 0-4
27.03.93 Austria v France 0-1
14.04.93 Austria v Bulgaria 3-1
28.04.93 France v Sweden 2-1
28.04.93 Bulgaria v Finland 2-0
12.05.93 Bulgaria v Israel 2-2
13.05.93 Finland v Austria 3-1
19.05.93 Sweden v Austria 1-0
02.06.93 Sweden v Israel 5-0
16.06.93 Finland v Israel 0-0
22.08.93 Sweden v France 1-1
25.08.93 Austria v Finland 3-0
08.09.93 Finland v France 0-2
08.09.93 Bulgaria v Sweden 1-1
13.10.93 France v Israel 2-3
13.10.93 Bulgaria v Austria 4-1
13.10.93 Sweden v Finland 3-2
27.10.93 Israel v Austria 1-1
10.11.93 Austria v Sweden
10.11.93 Israel v Finland
17.11.93 France v Bulgaria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SWEDEN	9	6	2	1	18	7	14
France	9	6	1	2	16	8	13
Bulgaria	9	5	2	2	17	9	12
Austria	9	3	1	5	14	15	7
Israel	9	1	3	5	9	24	5
Finland	9	1	1	7	6	17	3

Sweden qualify for finals

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members)

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round

GROUP A

09.10.92 Algeria v Burundi 3-1
25.10.92 Burundi v Ghana 1-0
20.12.92 Ghana v Algeria 2-0
17.01.93 Burundi v Algeria 0-0
31.01.93 Ghana v Burundi 1-0
26.02.93 Algeria v Ghana 2-1

★ *Uganda withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ALGERIA	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Ghana	4	2	0	2	4	3	4
Burundi	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

GROUP B

18.10.92 Cameroon v Swaziland 5-0
25.10.92 Swaziland v Zaire 1-0
10.01.93 Zaire v Cameroon 1-2
17.01.93 Swaziland v Cameroon 0-0
29.02.93 Cameroon v Zaire 0-0

★ *Liberia withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CAMEROON	4	2	2	0	7	1	6
Swaziland	3	1	1	1	1	5	3
Zaire	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Not played: *Zaire v Swaziland*

GROUP C

11.10.92 Egypt v Angola 1-0
11.10.92 Zimbabwe v Togo 1-0
25.10.92 Togo v Egypt 1-4
20.12.92 Zimbabwe v Egypt 2-1
10.01.93 Angola v Zimbabwe 1-1
17.01.93 Togo v Zimbabwe 1-2
18.01.93 Angola v Egypt 0-0
31.01.93 Egypt v Togo 3-0
31.01.93 Zimbabwe v Angola 2-1
28.02.93 Egypt v Zimbabwe 2-1
Result declared void after protest
28.02.93 Togo v Angola 0-1
Replay *(in Lyons)*
15.04.93 Egypt v Zimbabwe 0-0

★ *Sierra Leone withdrew, Togo replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZIMBABWE	6	4	2	0	8	4	10
Egypt	6	3	2	1	9	3	8
Angola	5	1	2	2	3	4	4
Togo	5	0	0	5	2	11	0

Not played: *Angola v Togo*

GROUP D

10.10.92 Nigeria v South Africa 4-0
25.10.92 South Africa v Congo 1-0
20.12.92 Congo v Nigeria 0-1
17.01.93 South Africa v Nigeria 0-0
31.01.93 Congo v South Africa 0-1
27.02.93 Nigeria v Congo 2-0

★ *Sao Tome e Principe withdrew, Libya withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	4	3	1	0	7	0	7
South Africa	4	2	1	1	2	4	5
Congo	4	0	0	4	0	5	0

GROUP E

10.10.92 Ivory Coast v Botswana 6-0
25.10.92 Niger v Ivory Coast 0-0
20.12.92 Botswana v Niger 0-1
17.01.93 Botswana v Ivory Coast 0-0
31.01.93 Ivory Coast v Niger 1-0
28.02.93 Niger v Botswana 2-1

★ *Sudan withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IVORY COAST	4	2	2	0	7	0	6
Niger	4	2	1	1	3	2	5
Botswana	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

GROUP F

11.10.92 Morocco v Ethiopia 5-0
11.10.92 Tunisia v Benin 5-1
25.10.92 Ethiopia v Tunisia 0-0
25.10.92 Benin v Morocco 0-1
20.12.92 Tunisia v Morocco 1-1
20.12.92 Ethiopia v Benin 3-1
17.01.93 Ethiopia v Morocco 0-1
17.01.93 Benin v Tunisia 0-5
31.01.93 Tunisia v Ethiopia 3-0
31.01.93 Morocco v Benin 5-0
28.02.93 Benin v Ethiopia 1-0
28.02.93 Morocco v Tunisia 0-0

★ *Malawi withdrew, Benin replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	6	4	2	0	13	1	10
Tunisia	6	3	3	0	14	2	9
Ethiopia	6	1	1	4	3	11	3
Benin	6	1	0	5	3	19	2

GROUP G

11.10.92 Gabon v Mozambique 3-1
25.10.92 Mozambique v Senegal 0-1
19.12.92 Gabon v Senegal 3-2
17.02.93 Mozambique v Gabon 1-1
30.01.93 Senegal v Mozambique 6-1
27.02.93 Senegal v Gabon 1-0

★ *Mauritania withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SENEGAL	4	3	0	1	10	4	6
Gabon	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Mozambique	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

GROUP H

11.01.92 Madagascar v Namibia 3-0
25.10.92 Namibia v Zambia 0-4
20.12.92 Madagascar v Zambia 2-0
17.01.93 Namibia v Madagascar 0-1
30.01.93 Zambia v Namibia 4-0
27.02.93 Zambia v Madagascar 3-1

★ *Burkina Faso withdrew and were replaced by Namibia. Tanzania also withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZAMBIA	4	3	0	1	11	3	6
Madagascar	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Namibia	4	0	0	4	0	12	0

GROUP I

20.12.92 Guinea v Kenya 4-0
27.02.93 Kenya v Guinea 2-0

★ *Gambia & Mali withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GUINEA	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Kenya	2	1	0	1	2	4	2

Second Round

GROUP A

16.04.93 Algeria v Ivory Coast 1-1
02.05.93 Ivory Coast v Nigeria 2-1
03.07.93 Nigeria v Algeria 4-1

Giggs of Wales (right) takes on Yiangoudakis of Cyprus in Cardiff.

18.07.93 Ivory Coast v Algeria 1-0
25.09.93 Nigeria v Ivory Coast 4-1
08.10.93 Algeria v Nigeria 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	4	2	1	1	10	5	5
Ivory Coast	4	2	1	1	5	6	5
Algeria	4	0	2	2	3	7	2

Nigeria qualify for finals

GROUP B

18.04.93 Morocco v Senegal 1-0
04.07.93 Zambia v Morocco 2-1
17.07.93 Senegal v Morocco 1-3
07.08.93 Senegal v Zambia 0-0
26.09.93 Zambia v Senegal 4-0
10.10.93 Morocco v Zambia 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	4	3	0	1	6	3	6
Zambia	4	2	1	1	6	2	5
Senegal	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

Morocco qualify for finals

GROUP C

18.04.93 Cameroon v Guinea 3-1
02.05.93 Guinea v Zimbabwe 3-0
04.07.93 Zimbabwe v Cameroon 1-0
18.07.93 Guinea v Cameroon 0-1
26.09.93 Zimbabwe v Guinea 1-0
10.10.93 Cameroon v Zimbabwe 3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CAMEROON	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Zimbabwe	4	2	0	2	3	6	4
Guinea	4	1	0	3	4	5	2

Cameroon qualify for finals

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Top two in Group A play (home & away) against top two in Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Pre-preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

21.03.92 Dominican Rep. v P. Rico 1-2
22.03.92 St Lucia v St Vincent 1-0
29.03.92 P. Rico v Dominican Rep. 1-1
29.03.92 St Vincent v St Lucia 3-1

Preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

26.04.92 Bermuda v Haiti 1-0
25.05.92 Jamaica v Puerto Rico 2-1
25.05.92 Haiti v Bermuda 2-1
30.05.92 Puerto Rico v Jamaica 0-1
St Vincent v Cuba★

★ *Cuba withdrew.*

St Vincent, Bermuda & Jamaica qualify for 1st rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION — SOUTH

19.04.92 Dutch Antilles v Antigua 1-1
26.04.92 Antigua v Dutch Antilles 3-0
26.04.92 Guyana v Surinam 1-2
24.05.92 Barbados v Trin. & Tobago 1-2
25.05.92 Surinam v Guyana 1-1
31.05.92 Trin. & Tobago v Barbados 3-0

Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua and Surinam qualify for 1st rnd

First Round
CENTRAL REGION

19.07.92 Guatemala v Honduras 0-0
19.07.92 Nicaragua v El Salvador 0-5
23.07.92 El Salvador v Nicaragua 5-1
26.07.92 Honduras v Guatemala 2-0
16.08.92 Panama v Costa Rica 1-0
23.08.92 Costa Rica v Panama 5-1

El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica qualify for 2nd rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION

14.06.92 Antigua v Bermuda 0-3
05.07.92 Trinidad & Tobago v Jamaica 1-2
04.07.92 Bermuda v Antigua 2-1
02.08.92 Surinam v St Vincent 0-0
16.08.92 Jamaica v Trinidad & Tobago 1-1
30.08.92 St Vincent v Surinam 2-1

Bermuda, Jamaica and St Vincent qualify for 2nd rnd

Second Round
GROUP A

08.11.92 Costa Rica v Honduras 2-3
08.11.92 St Vincent v Mexico 0-4
15.11.92 Mexico v Honduras 2-0
15.11.92 St Vincent v Costa Rica 0-1
22.11.92 Mexico v Costa Rica 4-0
22.11.92 St Vincent v Honduras 0-4
28.11.92 Honduras v St Vincent 4-0
29.11.92 Costa Rica v Mexico 2-0
05.12.92 Honduras v Costa Rica 2-1
06.12.92 Mexico v St Vincent 11-0
13.12.92 Costa Rica v St Vincent 5-0
13.12.92 Honduras v Mexico 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	4	1	1	22	3	9
HONDURAS	6	4	1	1	14	6	9
Costa Rica	6	3	0	3	11	9	6
St. Vincent	6	0	0	6	0	29	0

Mexico & Honduras qualify for final rnd

GROUP B

18.10.92 Jamaica v Canada 1-1
18.10.92 Bermuda v El Salvador 1-0
25.10.92 El Salvador v Canada 1-1
25.10.92 Bermuda v Jamaica 1-1
01.11.92 Canada v Jamaica 1-0
01.11.92 El Salvador v Bermuda 4-1
08.11.92 Canada v El Salvador 2-3
08.11.92 Jamaica v Bermuda 3-2
15.11.92 Canada v Bermuda 4-2
22.11.92 Jamaica v El Salvador 0-2
06.12.92 Bermuda v Canada 0-0
06.12.92 El Salvador v Jamaica 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EL SALVADOR	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
CANADA	6	2	3	1	9	7	7
Jamaica	6	1	2	3	6	9	4
Bermuda	6	1	2	3	7	12	4

El Salvador & Canada qualify for final rnd

Final Round

04.04.93 El Salvador v Mexico 2-1
04.04.93 Honduras v Canada 2-2
11.04.93 Mexico v Honduras 3-0
11.04.93 Canada v El Salvador 2-0
18.04.93 Canada v Honduras 3-1
18.04.93 Mexico v El Salvador 3-1
25.04.93 Mexico v Canada 4-0
25.04.93 Honduras v El Salvador 2-0
02.05.93 Honduras v Mexico 1-4
02.05.93 El Salvador v Canada 1-2
09.05.93 Canada v Mexico 1-2
09.05.93 El Salvador v Honduras 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	5	0	1	17	5	10
Canada	6	3	1	2	10	10	7
El Salvador	6	2	0	4	6	11	4
Honduras	6	1	1	4	7	13	3

Mexico qualify for finals, Canada qualify for play-off with Australia.

Play-off
1st leg

31.07.93 Canada v Australia 2-1

2nd leg

15.08.93 Australia v Canada 2-1

Australia won 4-1 on pens & qualify for play-off with Argentina, see South America for details.

SOUTH AMERICA

9 entries (10 members, Chile suspended)

● *Winners of Group A & winners & runners-up in Group B qualify for finals. Group A runners-up play winners of CONCACAF/Oceania play-off for a place in the finals.*

GROUP A

01.08.93 Colombia v Paraguay 0-0
01.08.93 Peru v Argentina 0-1
08.08.93 Paraguay v Argentina 1-3
08.08.93 Peru v Colombia 0-1
15.08.93 Colombia v Argentina 2-1
15.08.93 Paraguay v Peru 2-1
22.08.93 Argentina v Peru 2-1
22.08.93 Paraguay v Colombia 1-1
29.08.93 Argentina v Paraguay 0-0
29.08.93 Colombia v Peru 4-0
05.09.93 Argentina v Colombia 0-5
05.09.93 Peru v Paraguay 2-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
COLOMBIA	6	4	2	0	13	2	10
Argentina	6	3	1	2	7	9	7
Paraguay	6	1	4	1	6	7	6
Peru	6	0	1	5	4	12	1

Colombia qualify for finals, Argentina qualify for play-off with Australia.

GROUP B

18.07.93 Ecuador v Brazil 0-0
18.07.93 Venezuela v Bolivia 1-7
25.07.93 Bolivia v Brazil 2-0
25.07.93 Venezuela v Uruguay 0-1
01.08.93 Uruguay v Ecuador 0-0
01.08.93 Venezuela v Brazil 1-5
08.08.93 Bolivia v Uruguay 3-0
08.08.93 Ecuador v Venezuela 5-0
15.08.93 Bolivia v Ecuador 1-0
15.08.93 Uruguay v Brazil 1-1
22.08.93 Bolivia v Venezuela 7-0
22.08.93 Brazil v Ecuador 2-0
29.08.93 Brazil v Bolivia 6-0
29.08.93 Uruguay v Venezuela 4-0
05.09.93 Brazil v Venezuela 4-0
05.09.93 Ecuador v Uruguay 0-1
12.09.93 Uruguay v Bolivia 2-1
12.09.93 Venezuela v Ecuador 2-1
19.09.93 Brazil v Uruguay 2-0
19.09.93 Ecuador v Bolivia 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRAZIL	8	5	2	1	20	4	12
BOLIVIA	8	5	1	2	22	10	11
Uruguay	8	4	2	2	9	7	10
Ecuador	8	1	3	4	7	7	5
Venezuela	8	1	0	7	4	34	2

Brazil and Bolivia qualify for finals.

Play-off
1st leg

31.10.93 Australia v Argentina 1-1

2nd leg

17.11.93 Argentina v Australia

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● *The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.*

GROUP 1

11.07.92 Solomon Islands v Tahiti 1-1
04.09.92 Solomon Islands v Australia 1-2
11.09.92 Tahiti v Australia 0-3
20.09.92 Australia v Tahiti 2-0
25.09.92 Australia v Solomon Islands 6-1

Morocco's El Hadrioui clears from Zambia's M'Basella during the decisive match in Casablanca.

09.10.92 Tahiti v Solomon Islands 4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRALIA	4	4	0	0	13	2	8
Tahiti	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Solomon Islands	4	0	1	3	5	13	1

Australia qualify for final play-off

GROUP 2

07.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji 3-0
27.06.92 Vanuatu v New Zealand 1-4
01.07.92 New Zealand v Vanuatu 8-0
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu 3-0
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand 0-0
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji 0-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NEW ZEALAND	4	3	1	0	15	1	7
Fiji	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Vanuatu	4	0	0	4	1	18	0

New Zealand qualify for final play-off

Play-off
1st leg

30.05.93 New Zealand v Australia 0-1

2nd leg

06.06.93 Australia v New Zealand 3-0

Australia won 4-0 on agg and meet Canada in a play-off. See CONCACAF section for details.

ASIA

29 entries (36 members)

● *The six Group winners qualify for Second Round, to be played as (home & away) mini-league. Winners & runners-up qualify for finals.*

First Round
GROUP A

22.05.93 Jordan v Yemen ▲ 1-1
22.05.93 Pakistan v China ▲ 0-5
24.05.93 Jordan v Iraq ▲ 1-1
24.05.93 Yemen v Pakistan ▲ 5-1
26.05.93 Jordan v China ▲ 0-3
26.05.93 Yemen v Iraq ▲ 1-6
28.05.93 Pakistan v Iraq ▲ 0-8
28.05.93 Yemen v China ▲ 1-0
30.05.93 Jordan v Pakistan ▲ 3-1
30.05.93 Iraq v China ▲ 1-0
12.06.93 Yemen v Jordan ▼ 1-1
12.06.93 China v Pakistan ▼ 3-0
14.06.93 Iraq v Jordan ▼ 4-0
14.06.93 Pakistan v Yemen ▼ 0-3
16.06.93 China v Jordan ▼ 4-1
16.06.93 Iraq v Yemen ▼ 3-0
18.06.93 Iraq v Pakistan ▼ 4-0
18.06.93 China v Yemen ▼ 1-0
20.06.93 Pakistan v Jordan ▼ 0-5
20.06.93 China v Iraq ▼ 2-1
▲ in Amman, Jordan
▼ in Beijing, China

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IRAQ	8	6	1	1	28	4	13
China	8	6	0	2	18	4	12
Yemen	8	3	2	3	12	13	8
Jordan	8	2	3	3	12	15	7
Pakistan	8	0	0	8	2	36	0

GROUP B

23.06.93 Iran v Oman ▲ 0-0
23.06.93 Taiwan v Syria ▲ 0-2
25.06.93 Oman v Syria ▲ 0-0
25.06.93 Iran v Taiwan ▲ 6-0
27.06.93 Oman v Taiwan ▲ 2-1
27.06.93 Iran v Syria ▲ 1-1
02.07.93 Oman v Iran ▼ 0-1
02.07.93 Syria v Taiwan ▼ 8-1
04.07.93 Syria v Oman ▼ 2-1
04.07.93 Taiwan v Iran ▼ 0-6
06.07.93 Taiwan v Oman ▼ 1-7
06.07.93 Syria v Iran ▼ 1-1
▲ in Tehran, Iran
▼ in Damascus, Syria
★ *Myanmar (formerly Burma) withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IRAN	6	3	3	0	15	2	9
Syria	6	3	3	0	14	4	9
Oman	6	2	2	2	10	5	6
Taiwan	6	0	0	6	3	31	0

GROUP C

09.04.93 Qatar v Indonesia ▲ 3-1
09.04.93 North Korea v Vietnam ▲ 3-0
11.04.93 North Korea v Singapore ▲ 2-1
11.04.93 Qatar v Vietnam ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 North Korea v Indonesia ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 Vietnam v Singapore ▲ 2-3
16.04.93 Qatar v Singapore ▲ 4-1
16.04.93 Vietnam v Indonesia ▲ 1-0
18.04.93 Indonesia v Singapore ▲ 0-2
18.04.93 Qatar v North Korea ▲ 1-2
24.04.93 Indonesia v Qatar ▼ 1-4
24.04.93 Vietnam v North Korea ▼ 0-1
26.04.93 Singapore v North Korea ▼ 1-3
26.04.93 Vietnam v Qatar ▼ 0-4
28.04.93 Indonesia v North Korea ▼ 1-2
28.04.93 Singapore v Vietnam ▼ 1-0
30.04.93 Singapore v Qatar ▼ 1-0
30.04.93 Indonesia v Vietnam ▼ 2-1
02.05.93 Singapore v Indonesia ▼ 2-1
02.05.93 North Korea v Qatar ▼ 2-2
▲ in Doha, Qatar
▼ in Singapore

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTH KOREA	8	7	1	0	19	6	15
Qatar	8	5	1	2	22	8	11
Singapore	8	5	0	3	12	12	10
Indonesia	8	1	0	7	6	19	2
Vietnam	8	1	0	7	4	18	2

GROUP D

07.05.93 Lebanon v India ▲ 2-2
07.05.93 Hong Kong v Bahrain ▲ 2-1
09.05.93 Bahrain v South Korea ▲ 0-0
09.05.93 Lebanon v Hong Kong ▲ 2-2
11.05.93 India v Hong Kong ▲ 1-2
11.05.93 Lebanon v South Korea ▲ 0-1
13.05.93 Lebanon v Bahrain ▲ 0-0
13.05.93 India v South Korea ▲ 0-3
15.05.93 Hong Kong v South Korea ▲ 0-3
15.05.93 Bahrain v India ▲ 2-1
05.06.93 South Korea v Hong Kong ▼ 3-0
05.06.93 Bahrain v Lebanon ▼ 0-0
07.06.93 India v Bahrain ▼ 0-3
07.06.93 South Korea v Lebanon ▼ 2-0
09.06.93 Hong Kong v Lebanon ▼ 1-2
09.06.93 South Korea v India ▼ 7-0
11.06.93 India v Lebanon ▼ 1-2
11.06.93 Bahrain v Hong Kong ▼ 3-0
13.06.93 South Korea v Bahrain ▼ 3-0
13.06.93 Hong Kong v India ▼ 1-3
▲ in Beirut, Lebanon
▼ in Seoul, South Korea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SOUTH KOREA	8	7	1	0	22	0	15
Bahrain	8	3	3	2	9	6	9
Lebanon	8	2	4	2	8	9	8
Hong Kong	8	2	1	5	8	18	5
India	8	1	1	6	8	22	3

GROUP E

01.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▲ 6-0
01.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▲ 1-1
03.05.93 Kuwait v Macao ▲ 10-1
03.05.93 Malaysia v Saudi Arabia ▲ 1-1
05.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▲ 0-0
05.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▲ 9-0
14.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▼ 0-2
14.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▼ 8-0
16.05.93 Macao v Kuwait ▼ 0-8
16.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Malaysia ▼ 3-0
18.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▼ 5-0
18.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▼ 2-0
▲ in Kuala Lumpur
▼ in Riyadh

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAUDI ARABIA	6	4	2	0	20	1	10
Kuwait	6	3	2	1	21	4	8
Malaysia	6	2	2	3	16	7	6
Macao	6	0	0	6	1	46	0

GROUP F

08.04.93 Japan v Thailand ▲ 1-0
08.04.93 Sri Lanka v UAE ▲ 0-4
11.04.93 Japan v Bangladesh ▲ 8-0
11.04.93 Thailand v Sri Lanka ▲ 1-0
13.04.93 Sri Lanka v Bangladesh ▲ 0-1
13.04.93 UAE v Thailand ▲ 1-0
15.04.93 Japan v Sri Lanka ▲ 5-0
15.04.93 UAE v Bangladesh ▲ 1-0
18.04.93 Japan v UAE ▲ 2-0
18.04.93 Thailand v Bangladesh ▲ 4-1
28.04.93 Thailand v Japan ▼ 0-1
28.04.93 UAE v Sri Lanka ▼ 3-0
30.04.93 Bangladesh v Japan ▼ 1-4
30.04.93 Thailand v UAE ▼ 1-2
03.05.93 Bangladesh v UAE ▼ 0-7
03.05.93 Sri Lanka v Thailand ▼ 0-3
05.05.93 Bangladesh v Thailand ▼ 1-4
05.05.93 Sri Lanka v Japan ▼ 0-6
07.05.93 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka ▼ 3-0
07.05.93 UAE v Japan ▼ 1-1
▲ in Tokyo, Japan
▼ in Dubai, UAE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JAPAN	8	7	1	0	28	2	15
UAE	8	6	1	1	19	4	13
Thailand	8	4	0	4	13	7	8
Bangladesh	8	2	0	6	7	28	4
Sri Lanka	8	0	0	8	0	26	0

Second Round

15.10.93 North Korea v Iraq 3-2
15.10.93 Saudi Arabia v Japan 0-0
16.10.93 Iran v South Korea 0-3
18.10.93 North Korea v Saudi Arabia 1-2
18.10.93 Japan v Iran 1-2
19.10.93 Iraq v South Korea 2-2
21.10.93 North Korea v Japan 0-3
22.10.93 Iran v Iraq 1-2
22.10.93 South Korea v Saudi Arabia 1-1
24.10.93 Iraq v Saudi Arabia 1-1
25.10.93 Japan v South Korea 1-0
25.10.93 Iran v North Korea 2-1
28.10.93 South Korea v North Korea 3-0
28.10.93 Saudi Arabia v Iran 4-2
28.10.93 Iraq v Japan 2-2
● all matches in Doha, Qatar.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAUDI ARABIA	5	2	3	0	8	5	7
SOUTH KOREA	5	2	2	1	9	4	6
Japan	5	2	2	1	7	4	6
Iraq	5	1	3	1	9	9	5
Iran	5	2	0	3	7	11	4
North Korea	5	1	0	4	5	12	2

Saudi Arabia & South Korea qualify for finals

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA SALZBURG 2
AUSTRIA WIEN 0

ADMIRA WACKER 3
SPORTCLUB 0

STURM GRAZ 1
VORWARTS 1

RAPID WIEN 2
WACKER INNSBRUCK 0

ST POLTEN 1
VfB MODLING 0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

WEEKEND

VORWARTS 2
ST POLTEN 0

VfB MODLING 1
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 1

AUSTRIA WIEN 2
RAPID WIEN 1

WACKER INNSBRUCK 2
ADMIRA WACKER 1

SPORTCLUB 0
STURM GRAZ 0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

WEEKEND

SPORTKLUB 2
VORWARTS 1

AUSTRIA SALZBURG 2
ST POLTEN 0

ADMIRA WACKER 0
AUSTRIA WIEN 3

STURM GRAZ v WACKER INNSBRUCK — *postponed*

RAPID WIEN 0
VfB MODLING 0

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

WEEKEND

CHARLEROI 3 (Malbasa 29 pen, Brogno 71, 77)
LOMMEL 0. **Att:** 6,500.

GENK 2 (Sarpang 69, Goots 87)
LIEGE 2 (Sebewe 50, Godfroid 56).
Att: 3,000.

STANDARD 3 (Asselman 15, Lashaf 60, Cruz 62)
LIERSE 0. **Att:** 8,000.

SERAING 3 (Wamberto 25, Lukaku 53, Teppers 64)
OOSTENDE 0. **Att:** 6,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Amokachi 70)
GENT 2 (De Roover 35, Viscul 67).
Att: 12,000.

MECHELEN 1 (Eszenyi 48)
ANTWERP 1 (Severeyns 63). **Att:** 9,000.

EKEREN 2 (Hofmans 85, Verstraeten 89)
ANDERLECHT 4 (Bosman 37, Boffin 62, Nilis 65, 73). **Att:** 10,000.

RWDM 1 (Williams 32)
WAREGEM 0. Att: 5,500.

BEVEREN 4 (Udovic 34,Van Overtvelt 44, 70, Bogaerts 58)
CERCLE BRUGES 2 (Seleymes 48, Cheregi 78 pen). **Att:** 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEEKEND

GENT 1 (De Meyer 9)
EKEREN 1 (Halmai 13). **Att:** 6,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 2 (Munteanu 25, Weber 77)
CLUB BRUGGE 4 (Medved 10, Amokachi 24, 84, Eykelkamp 56). **Att:** 12,000.

SERAING 3 (Edmilson 34, Lukaku 48, Varga 84)
GENK 1 (Goots 49). **Att:** 5,000.

LIEGE 1 (Wachiels 58)
RWDM 0. **Att:** 12,000.

WAREGEM 1 (Van Dor Beken 4)
MECHELEN 1 (Czerniatynski 15).
Att: 4,500.

ANDERLECHT 3 (Nilis 33, 68, Bosman 64)
CHARLEROI 1 (Brogno 5). **Att:** 18,000.

ANTWERP 2 (Lenhoff 53, Bursac 77)
BEVEREN 0. **Att:** 4,500.

OOSTENDE 2 (Keshinro 7, Swietek 39)
LIERSE 2 (Snelders 38, Rekdal 68).
Att: 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

WEEKEND

CHARLEROI 4 (Vanmeir 11, Malbasa 16, 71, 82 pen)
GENT 2 (Dauwen 55, Vandenberg 73).
Att: 12,720.

GENK 2 (Clayessens 31, 82)
OOSTENDE 2 (De Waele 67, Renty 84).
Att: 6,213.

STANDARD 0
ANDERLECHT 3 (Nilis 8, 32, 54).
Att: 17,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 0
ANTWERP 0. **Att:** 11,000.

MECHELEN 2 (Czerniakynski 50, Bartholomeeusen 70)
LIEGE 2 (Godfroid 27, 60). **Att:** 7,850.

EKEREN 4 (Almai 3, Offman 37, 86, Tahamata 40)
CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Weber 38).
Att: 6,500.

RWDM 0
SERAING 1 (Lokaku 83). **Att:** 5,250.

BEVEREN 3 (Udovic 6, 89, Nwanu 44 pen)
WAREGEM 0. **Att:** 7,800.

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

WEEKEND

WILLEM II 2 (Stewart 50, Meijs 78)
TWENTE 0. **Att:** 6,500.

MVV 0
CAMBUUR 0. **Att:** 4,800.

SPARTA 2 (Jalenti 14, Krijgsman 34)
RODA 0. **Att:** 3,500.

GA EAGLES 0
NAC 0. **Att:** 6,500.

VITESSE 2 (Straul 25, Pothuizen 79)
UTRECHT 2 (Oosterhuis 14, De Kruijff 44). **Att:** 6,700.

AJAX 2 (Rijkaard 29, Litmanen 54)
VVV 0. **Att:** 18,600.

GRONINGEN v VOLENDAM — *postponed*

PSV 1 (Koeman 71)
RKC 1 (Brands 11 pen). **Att:** 25,300.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

MIDWEEK

HEERENVEEN 1 (Keuk 7)
FEYENOORD 3 (Witschge 5, Van Loen 75, Blinker 84). **Att:** 14,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEEKEND

NAC 6 (Lammers 1, 43, 51, Lokhoff 24, Van Hooisdonk 59, Geritsen 83)
HEERENVEEN 0. **Att:** 9,772.

RODA 2 (Van Galen 6, Hofstede 13)
VITESSE 1 (Gillhaus 77). **Att:** 6,000.

RKC 2 (Branos 42 pen, J Hoekstra 85)
GRONINGEN 3 (Reiziger 35, 44) Djurovski 70). **Att:** 4,500.

VOLENDAM 0
GA EAGLES 1 (Van Blerk 2). **Att:** 5,000.

UTRECHT 0
PSV 4 (Playfair 1, Kallisha 13, VO Meer 44 og, Lamptey 86). **Att:** 9,500.

FEYENOORD 2 (Van Loen 5, Blinker 89)
WILLEM II 0. **Att:** 26,662.

CAMBUUR 1 (Meijer 9)
SPARTA 1 (Jalink 59). **Att:** 5,000.

TWENTE 1 (Mols 48)
AJAX 2 (Rijkaard 83, Boerebach 90).
Att: 13,300.

VVV 1 (Lanckor 58)
MVV 7 (Boelofssen 28, 38, Hofman 38, Visser 53, 65, 77, Laros 75). **Att:** 4,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

WEEKEND

WILLEM II 2 (Van Hintum 21, 43 pen)
NAC 0. **Att:** 13,000.

MVV 0
TWENTE 2 (Mois 9, Ten Hag 50).
Att: 4,800.

HEERENVEEN 3 (Tammer 7,Echteld 67, Regtop 77)
VOLENDAM 1 (Wasiman 78 pen).
Att: 12,000.

SPARTA 2 (V D Haan 16, Van Eck 60)
VVV 2 (Dorix 53, Graaf 58). **Att:** 2,500.

GA EAGLES 3 (Kammeron 4, 7, Van Blork 57)
GRONINGEN 0. **Att:** 5,500.

VITESSE 2 (Keiser 38, Vermeulen 70)
CAMBUUR 1 (Bos 26). **Att:**8,000

AJAX 2 (Litmanen 21, 87)
FEYENOORD 2 (Scholten 9, Esejas 18). **Att:** 43,000.

PSV 2 (Numan 60, Lamptey 88)
RODA 0. **Att:** 23,560.

UTRECHT 3 (V D Net 54, Plugboer 66, V DArk 72)
RKC 1 (Boogers 3). **Att:** 4,365.

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

WEEKEND

MARITIMO 5 (Heitor 31, 45 pen, Jorge Andrade 70, 80, 90 pen)
FARENSE 2 (Hassan 52, 60).
Att: 11,380.

BRAGA 2 (Karoglan 58, Eugenior 81)
BEIRA-MAR 0. **Att:** 8,700.

FERREIRA 0
ESTORIL 0. **Att:** 9,000.

SPORTING 1 (Pacheco 75)
UNIAO MADEIRA 0. **Att:** 40,000.

SALGUEIROS 0
FC PORTO 3 (Semedo 6, Kostadinov 70, 77). **Att:** 10,000.

AMADORA 3 (Fernando 79, Ivan 83, Ricardo 89)
GIL VICENTE 0. **Att:** 10,000.

SETUBAL 1 (Yekini 17)
BOAVISTA 3 (Owubokiri 12, Marlon Brandao 33, 80). **Att:** 15,000.

BELENENSES 0
GUIMARAES 0. **Att:** 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

WEEKEND

FAMALICAO 1 (Amarildo 62)
BENFICA 5 (Abei Xavier 26, Joao Pinto 29, Isaias 67, Rui Aguas 71, Paneira 88).
Att: 5,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEEKEND

ESTORIL 2 (Curcic 51, Mauricio 59 pen)
SALGUEIROS 3 (Abilio 8 pen, Tulipa 23, Sa Pinto 30). **Att:** 5,600.

BEIRA-MAR 0
FERREIRA 1 (Mota 35). **Att:** 7,300.

PORTO 2 (Paulinho Santos 85, J. Couto 90)
SETUBAL 0. **Att:** 10,000.

BENFICA 2 (William 2, Isaias 61)
BRAGA 0. **Att:** 15,000.

BOAVISTA 3 (Artur 45, M. Brandao 68, Nelo 89)
BELENENSES 0. **Att:** 3,300.

MARITIMO 3 (Madeira 1, Amarildo 4, Edmilson 39)
FAMALICAO 2 (Joao Mario 63, 67).
Att: 8,400.

GUIMARAES 0
AMADORA 0. **Att:** 12,000.

GIL VICENTE 0
SPORTING 0. **Att:** 6,000.

FARENSE 4 (Luiao 4, Pitico 31, Hassan 47, Lima 72)
MADEIRA 1 (Oragan 90). **Att:** 8,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

WEEKEND

FAMALICAO 2 (Marito 60, Miatarski 13)
FARENSE 1 (Hassan 41). **Att:** 8,000.

BRAGA 0
MARITIMO 1 (Jorge Andrade 6).
Att: 11,350.

MADEIRA 1 (Sergio Lavos 75)
GIL VICENTE 2 (Drulovic 52 pen, Miguel 69). **Att:** 9,400.

SPORTING 3 (Cadete 48, 70, Balakov 83)
GUIMARAES 0. **Att:** 55,000.

SALGUEIROS 2 (Miguel Sirao 49, Touze 65)
BEIRA-MAR 0. **Att:** 8,500.

AMADORA 1 (Fernando 65)
BOAVISTA 1 (Artur 33). **Att:** 13,000.

SETUBAL 2 (Calcoa 33 og, Sessaz 63)
ESTORIL 1 (Voynov 21). **Att:** 12,000.

BELENENSES 0
PORTO 2 (Domingos 13, 87). **Att:** 5,000.

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

WEEKEND

YVERDON 5 (Guex 16, 73, Castella 28, Urosevic 71, 89)
SERVETTE 1 (Scellanza 85). **Att:** 4,500.

YOUNG BOYS 6 (Moser 5, Reich 41, Kung 44, Bregy 60, Hartmann 74, Streun 79)
KRIENS 0. **Att:** 3,900.

SION v ZURICH — *postponed*

GRASSHOPPER v AARAU — *postponed*

LUCERNE v NEUCHATEL — *postponed*

LUGANO 0
LAUSANNE 0. **Att:** 4,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

MIDWEEK

KRIENS 2 (Heitzmann 38, Brugnoli 41)
YVERDON 0. **Att:** 1,000.

ZURICH 1 (Blattler 37)
YOUNG BOYS 2 (Markovic 32, 37).
Att: 3,700.

AARAU 0
SION 2 (Rey 28, Hottiger 83).
Att: 3,100

NEUCHATEL 0
GRASSHOPPER 0. **Att:** 6,100.

LAUSANNE 0
LUCERNE 2 (Guntensperger 33, 56).
Att: 3,500.

LUGANO v SERVETTE — *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEEKEND

SERVETTE 3 (Anderson 24, 48 pen, Sauthier 73)
KRIENS 2 (Germann 30, Przybylo 31).
Att: 3,000.

YVERDON 1 (Luis Carlos 31)
ZURICH 1 (Waas 42). **Att:** 2,850.

YOUNG BOYS 2 (Hartmann 39, Bregy 88)
AARAU 0. **Att:** 7,200.

SION 2 (Bonvin 24, Giannini 56)
NEUCHATEL 0. **Att:** 7,500.

GRASSHOPPER 4 (Elber 13 pen, Nakhid 18, Willems 72, 77
LAUSANNE 1 (Calderon 33). **Att:** 2,200.

LUCERNE 2 (Ghur 34, Gerstenmaier 63)
LUGANO 2 (Andrioli 74, Galvao 89).
Att: 8,100.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

WEEKEND

ZURICH 0
KRIENS 1 (Rossi 84). **Att:** 2,200.

AARAU 3 (Aleksandrov 76, 86, Killian 91)
YVERDON 1 (Vrosevi 5). **Att:** 3,500.

NEUCHATEL 2 (Negri 15, 89)
YOUNG BOYS 2 (H. Hartman 14, Kunz 51). **Att:** 11,700.

LUCERNE 0
SERVETTE 4 (Anderson 5, 85, 89, Sinvall 76). **Att:** 7,400.

LAUSANNE 1 (Sogbie 61)
SION 1 (Hottiger 85). **Att:** 6,200.

LUGANO 0
GRASSHOPPER 3 (Elber 78, 85, Colombo 88 og). **Att:** 2,000.

INTERNATIONAL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Sep 22 = Bucharest — intl friendly
ROMANIA 1 (Panduru 49)
ISRAEL 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000.
Romania: Prunea — Cadar (Cristescu 71), Dobos, Pirvu (Bratianu 86) — Panduru (C Pana 77), Gilca, Stiunga, Dumitrescu — Mildovan (Popa 61), Adrian Ilie (Craioveanu 61).
Israel: Cohen (Ginzburg 46) — A Harazi, Klinger, Shelah, Glamm — Hazan (Elimeleh 88), Ravivo (Atar 64), Nimny, Levy (Schwartz 69) — R Harazi, Mizrahi (Berkovich 61).

Sep 22 = Los Angeles — friendly intl
MEXICO 1 (Guzman 46)
CAMEROON 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000.

Sep 22 = Casablanca — friendly intl
MOROCCO 0
ALGERIA 0
Att: 12,000.
Morocco: Brazi — Tijani, Mesbahi, Bouhlal, Hadrioui — Moudakar (Khlid), Tahar, Khalif, Samadi (Mestouri) — Laghrissi, Simou (Fertout).
Algeria: Hamiched — Hamdani, Amrouche, Belatoui, Lazizi — Benhamiet, Dziri, Zerrouki, Cherif El Ouazani — Zekri, Tasfaout.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Sep 23 = Damman — friendly intl
SAUDI ARABIA 1 (Said Aouiran 20)
COSTA RICA 2 (Jose Jaikel 47, 57)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,500.
Costa Rica: Barrantes — Quiros (Jara 56), Chaves, *Marchena, Angulo — G Rodriguez (Castro 85), Sibaja (Obando 32), Solis, R Gomez — Paniagua (Chavarria 80), Jaikel (Wanchope 70).
* *Marchena sent off, 87min.*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Sep 24 = Seoul — friendly
SOUTH KOREA 1 (Suh Jung-won 35)
AUSTRALIA 1 (Mori 86)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Sep 25 = Lagos — WC African gp A
NIGERIA 4 (Oliha 20, Amokachi 24, Yekini 57, 79)
IVORY COAST 1 (Tiehi 50)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 65,000

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Sep 26 = Lusaka — WC African gp B
ZAMBIA 4 (Mbasela 11, Litana 55, Malitoli 71, Kalusha Bwalya 85)
SENEGAL 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000.

Sep 26 = Harare — WC African gp C
ZIMBABWE 1 (Sawu 3)
GUINEA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000.

Sep 26 = Seoul — intl
SOUTH KOREA 1 (Lee Gi-bum 76)
AUSTRALIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Sep 27 = Damman — intl
SAUDI ARABIA 3 (Hamza Idris 8, Abdullah 25, Al Owairan 55)
COSTA RICA 2 (Rodriguez 38, Gomez 75pen)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 4,500.
Costa Rica: Barrantes (Cubillo 83) — Jara (Quiros 35), Chaves (Chavarria 70), Marchena, *Angulo, Rodriguez — Solis, Paniagua, Gomez, Obando (Castro 60) — Jaikel (Wanchope 48).
* *Angulo sent off, 83min.*

Sep 27 = Bonneuil-sur-Marne, France — intl
MOROCCO 1 (Ondo 58)
GABON 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,500.
Match abandoned 68min, floodlight failure.
Morocco: Azmi (Alaoui 46) — El Maataoui, El Hadrioui, El Khalej, Bouhlal — Khalif, Bouyboud, Daoudi (Moussalek 54), Abrami — Fertout, Laghrissi.
Gabon: Rolenga (Mendome 59) — Ndong, Nkouma (Ngoma 46), Retoa, Amegasse — Kassa Ngoma, Mbinah, Ondo, Kassa — Ndong Nze, Makaya.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

Oct 4 = Tokyo — Afro-Asia Chp
JAPAN 1 (Kazu Miura)
IVORY COAST 0 **Att:** 35,000.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Oct 6 = Brussels — intl friendly
BELGIUM 2 (Wilmots 44, 87)
GABON 1 (Brice Makaya 38)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Kaupe (Aus)
Belgium: Preud'homme (De Wilde 49) — Medved, De Boeck, Albert, Smidts (Genaux 46) — Borkelmans (Van der Heyden 46), Van Meir, Boffin, Staelens — Czerniatynski, Wilmots.
Gabon: Mendome — Nkouma (Koumba 35), Kassa-Ngoma, Ndong-nze, Amegasse — Ondo, Ndong, Aubame, Ogandaga (Mboungha Nze 64) — Makaya (Ngoma 82), Nzamba.

Oct 6 = Los Angeles — intl friendly
MEXICO 4 (Patino 24, Ambriz 39, Galindo 73, 87)
SOUTH AFRICA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,578

Oct 6 = Riyadh — intl friendly
SAUDI ARABIA 4 (Messad 23, 60, Idris 65, Mhallel 85)
RUSSIA 2 (Mostovoi 9, 72)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

Oct 8 = Algiers — WC African Gp A
ALGERIA 1 (Zerrouki 71)
NIGERIA 1 (George 20)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,610. **Ref:** Lim Kee-chong.
Algeria: Hanniched — Hamdani, Benhamlet, Amrouche, Ait Abderrahmane (Fenazi 17), Cherif el Ouazani, Hadj Adlane, Zerrouki (Zekri 85), Lazzizi, Tasfaout Abdelhafid, Rahem.
Nigeria: Agbonavbare — Keshi, Eguavon (Ugbade 52), Okechukwu, Semitoje, Iroha, George, Amokachi, Oliha, Yekini, Amunike (Siasia 80).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

Oct 10 = Casablanca — WC African gp B
MOROCCO 1 (Laghrissi 50)
ZAMBIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 105,000. **Ref:** Diramba (Gab)
Morocco: Azmi — Abrami, Naybet, Masbahi, Hadrioui — Tahar, Daoudi, El Haddaoui, HAdji — Chaouch (Fertout 78), Laghrissi (Khalif 68).
Zambia: Phiri — Sakala, Chiyangi, Litana, Chongo — Lungu, Mbasela, Munaile (Musonda 55) — K Malitoli (Chilumba 79), K Bwalya, J Bwalya.

Oct 10 = Yaounde — WC African gp C
CAMEROON 3 (Omam Biyik 15, 28, Kissack Maboang 89)
ZIMBABWE 1 (Adam Ndlovu 85)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 85,000. **Ref:** Faye
Cameroon: Bell — Pagail, Tchami, Mbouh, Embe, Foe, Yombi, Nde, Omam Biyick (Maboang 33), Tataw, Mbarga.
Zimbabwe: Grobbelaar — Sibanda (Mardinda Nlovu 48) , Mashikila Kumalo, Gundani, Phiri, Shonhayi, McKop (Adam Ndlovu 48), Mugeyi, Sawu, Peter Ndlovu, Mapeza.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

Oct 12 = Luxembourg — WC Euro gp 5
LUXEMBOURG 1 (Fanelli 82)
GREECE 3 (Maglas 31, Apostolakis 63, Saravakos 72)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,000.
Luxembourg: Koch — Petry, Wolf, Strasser, Holts, Cardoni (Malget 46), Birsens, Groff, Morocutti (Fanelli 76), Langers, Ferron.
Greece: Minou — Nobilias, Manolas, Kalitzakis, Apolstolakis, Tsalouchidis, Mitropoulos (Alexandris 72), Miotlias, Dimitriadis (Marangos 46), Tsiantakis, Maglas.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Oct 13 = Oporto — WC Euro gp 1
PORTUGAL 1 (Joao Vieira Pinto 8)
SWITZERLAND 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 47,500. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Portugal: Vitor Baia — Joao Pedro Pinto, Peixe, Semedo (Paneira 81), Costa, Sousa, Oceano, Rui Costa, Joao Vieira Pinto, Futre, Cadete (Nogueira 55).
Switzerland: Pascolo — Hottiger, Quentin, Herr, Geiger, Bregy (Rueda 89), A Sutter, Orel, Knup (Grassi 81), Sforza, Chapuisat.

Oct 13 = Rome — WC Euro gp 1
ITALY 3 (Donadoni 3, Casiraghi 16, Eranio 80)
SCOTLAND 1 (Gallacher 18)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 61,178. **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom)
Italy: Pagliuca — Mussi (Lanna 68), Benarrivo, D Baggio, Costacurta, Baresi, Eranio, Donadoni, Casiraghi, R Baggio, Stroppa (Zola 90).
Scotland: Gunn — McKimmie, Boyd, McLaren, Irvine, Bowman (McStay 70), Durie, McCall, Jess (Durrant 46), McAllister, Gallagher.

Oct 13 = Rotterdam — WC Euro gp 2
HOLLAND 2 (R Koeman 61, Bergkamp 67)
ENGLAND 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Assenmacher (Ger)
Holland: De Goey — De Wolf, F De Boer, R Koeman, Wouters, Overmars (Winter 76), Rijkaard, R De Boer (Van Gobbel 89), Bergkamp, Roy.
England: Seaman — Parker, Dorigo, Palmer (Sinton 46), Adams, Pallister, Platt, Merson (Wright 76), Shearer, Sharpe, Ince.

Oct 13 = Poznan — WC Euro gp 2
POLAND 0
NORWAY 3 (Flo 61, Fjortoft 63, Johnsen 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Khrondl (Cze)
Poland: Bako — Bak, Kozminski, Waldoch (Czachowski 80), Wegrzyn, R Warzycha, Swierczewski, K Warzycha, Ziober, Kosecki (Brzeczek 26), Lesniak.
Norway: Grodas — Halle (J I Jakobsen 80), T Pedersen, Bratseth, Bjornebye, Flo, Mykland, Berg, Rekdal, Bohinen, Fjortoft (R Johnsen 70).

Oct 13 = Dublin — WC Euro gp 3
REP IRELAND 1 (Sheridan 72)
SPAIN 3 (Caminero 11, Salinas 14, 26)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Baldas (Ita).
Rep Ireland: Bonner — Irwin, Phelan, Moran (Sheridan 22), Kernaghan, Keane, McGrath, Houghton, Quinn, Whelan, Staunton (Cascarino 45).
Spain: Zubizarreta — Ferrer, Voro, Nadal, Giner, Hierro, Goikoetxea, Camarasa, Salinas (Guardiola 68), Caminero (Bakero 31), Luis Enrique.

Oct 13 = Copenhagen WC Euro gp 3
DENMARK 1 (B Laudrup 81)
NORTHERN IRELAND 0
HT: 0-0. Att 40,200. **Ref:** Zhuk (Bel)
Denmark: Schmeichel — Vilfort, Rieper, Olsen, Kjeldbjerg, Steen Nielsen, Jensen, Pingel (H Larsen 87), Povlsen, B Laudrup, M Laudrup.
N Ireland: Wright — Fleming, McDonald, Taggert, Worthington, Wilson (Black 85), Donaghy, Magilton, Michael Hughes, Dowie (Quinn 61), P Gray.

Oct 13 = Bucharest — WC Euro gp 4
ROMANIA 2 (Raducioiu 67pen, Dumitrescu 85)
BELGIUM 1 (Scifo 88pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Puhi (Hun)
Romania: Prunea — Petrescu, Prodan, Belodedici, Lupescu, Popescu, Munteanu, Sabau (Selimesi 27), Raducioiu, Hagi (Vladoiu 88), Dumitrescu.
Belgium: Preud'homme — Medved, Grun, Albert, Smidts, Borkelmans (Oliveira 70), F Van Der Elst, Boffin, Staelens, Scifo, Wilmots (Czerniatynski 78).

Oct 13 = Cardiff — WC Euro gp 4
WALES 2 (Saunders 70, Rush 86)
CYPRUS 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,825. **Ref:** Don (Eng)
Wales: Southall — Phillips, Symons (Goss 70), Aizlewood, Young, Horne, Speed, Saunders, Rush, Hughes, Giggs.
Cyprus: Petrides — *Costa, Pittas (Xiourouppas 78), **Constantinou, Christofi, Yiangoudakis (Panayi 78), D Ioannou, Larkou, Sotiriou, Papavasiliou, M Charalambous.
** Costa sent off, 50min*
*** Constantinou sent off, 80min*

Oct 13 = Stockholm — WC Euro gp 6
SWEDEN 3 (Dahlin 27, 44, Larsson 40)
FINLAND 2 (Suominen 14, Litmanen 60)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 30,200. **Ref:** Ahmet Cakar (Tur)
Sweden: Ravelli — R Nilsson, Eriksson, Ljung, Kamark — Ingesson (Landberg 8), Zetterberg, Schwarz, Limpar — Dahlin, Henrik Larsson (Martinsson 80).
Finland: Jakonen — Kinnunen, Kanerva, Heikkinen, Eriksson (Jarvinen 46) — Souminen, Lindberg, Aaltonen, Petaja — Litmanen, Hjelm.

Oct 13 = Sofia — WC Euro gp 6
BULGARIA 4 (Penev 6, 75, Stoichkov 32pen, Lechkov 89)
AUSTRIA 1 (Herzog 51)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Nicchi (Ita)
Bulgaria: Mihailov — Kremenliev, Hubchev, Tsvetanov, Ivanov, Yankov (Todorov 79), Kostadinov (Borimirov 60), Stoichkov, Penev, Lechkov, Balakov.
Austria: Wohlfahrt — Streiter, Kogler, Pfeffer, Schottel, Baur, A Ogris, Artner, Polster, Herzog, Stoeger.

Oct 13 = Paris — WC Euro gp 6
FRANCE 2 (Sauzee 29, Ginola 39)
ISRAEL 3 (Harazi 21, Berkovich 83, Atar 90)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 32,741. **Ref:** Snoddy (NI)
France: Lama — Blanc, Desailly, Petit, Roche (Lizarazu 24), Le Guen, Deschamps, Sauzee, Ginola (Dkjorkaeff 85), Papin, Cantona.
Israel: Ginsburg — Halfon (Schwartz 89), A Harazi, Klinger, Shelach, Glam, Hazan, Atar, Nimny (Berkovich 64), R Harazi, Rosenthal.

Oct 13 = Karlsruhe — intl friendly
GERMANY 5 (Buchwald 8, Moller 11, 88, Riedle 13, Kirsten 70)
URUGUAY 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 29,000.
Germany: Kopke — Effenberg (Ritter 87), Ziege, Kohler, Helmer (Zorc 71), Buchwald, Moller, Hassler, Riedle (Kirsten 61), Matthaus, Klinsmann.
Uruguay: Ferro — Jose Gonzalez (Bitancourt 46), Montero, Kanapkis, Romero, Ostolaza, Dos Santos (Albino 57), Poyet, Cabrera (Canobbio 62), Ferreri, Rodriguez.
Note: Germany's second goal was originally credited to Klinsmann but officially amended to Moller after the match.

Oct 13 = Washington — intl friendly
UNITED STATES 1 (Jones 82)
MEXICO 1 (Del Olmo 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,927. **Ref:** Ulloa (CR)
US: Friedel — Armstrong, Kooiman, Lalas, Agoos, Dooley, Sorber, Jones, Moore (Chung 69), Perez (Deering 50), Stewart.
Mexico: Campos — Rodriguez, Ramon Ramirez (Castaneda 13), Ambriz, Vidrio, Bernal, Patino (Espinoza 46), De Olmo, Guzman, Galindo, Zaguinho (Vazquez 46).

Oct 13 = Kranj — intl friendly
(status in question)
SLOVENIA 1 (Pate 40)
YUG/MACEDONIA 4 (Boskovski 4, Pancev 37pen, Janevski 48pen, Kanatlarovski 55)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Poljak (Cro)
Slovenia: Simeunovic (Zupan) — Zidan (Jarmanic), Novak, Milanic, Blatnik — Poljaak (Englaro), Ceh, Zulic (Pate), Zahovic — Udovic (Gliha), Florjancic.
Yug/Macedonia: Miskovski — Grozdanov (Madjimedov), Jovanovski, Najdoski, Kanatlarovski — Janevski, Boskovski, Markovski, Babunski (Milosevski) — Pancev, Micevski.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

Oct 15 = Doha, Qatar — WC Asian final rnd
IRAQ 2 (Alaa Jebur 7, 46)
NORTH KOREA 3 (Ryu Song-gun 67, Kim Gyong-il 77, Choe Won-nam 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Uilenberg (Hol)
Iraq: Emaad Hassan — Samir Hassan, * Saad Benyamin, Radhi Shnaishel Swadi, Habib Jafir Agal, Naeim Menshed (Abdul Salmin Karim 57), Ahmad Radhi, Alaa Jebur (Jaffar Omran Salman 86), Saad Numan, Salim Hussain Kadhim, Laith Hussein.
** Saad Benyamin sent off, 55min.*
North Korea: Kim Yong-ho — Pang Gwang-chol, Cho In-chol, Tak Yong-bin, Kim Gyong-il, Im Hwa-yong (Yun Jong-Su 46), Choe Won-nam, Kim Jong-man (Gong Mun-chol 48), Kim Gwang-min, Ryu Song-gun, Choe Yong-sun.

Oct 15 = Doha, Qatar — WC Asian final rnd
SAUDI ARABIA 0
JAPAN 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Muhmenthaler (Swi)
S Arabia: Mohammed Al Deayea — Abdullah Al Dsari, Ahmed Madani, Mohammed Al Khlawi, Fuad Amin, Mohammed Al Jawad, Saeed Owairan (Khalid Al Temawi 67), Khalid Al Muwallid, Mansour Al Muainea, Majed Abdullah (Sami Al Jaber 59), Hamzad Falatah.
Japan: Matsunaga — Horiike, Ihara, Hashiratani, Yakahama, Ramos, Yasutoshi Miura, Fukuda, Kazuyoshi Miura, Takagi, Takeda.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

Oct 16 = Doha — WC Asian final rnd
SOUTH KOREA 3 (Park Jung Bae 17, Ha Ju Seok 79, Woon Jeong Ko 82)
IRAN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (Ger)
S Korea: Choi In Young — Chung Jong Son, Kim Pan Keun, Park Jung Bae, Noh Jung Yoon (Seo Jung Won) Shin Hong Gi, Ha Seok Ju, Kim Joo Sung, Gu Sang Bum, Hwang Sun Hong (Woon Jeong Ko), Hong Myung Bo.
Iran: Behzad Gholampour — Javad Zarincheh, Reza Hassan Zadeh, Nader Mohammad Khani, Mehdi Fononi Zasegan, Hamid Derakhshan, Mehdi Abtahi, Sadam Marfavi, Ali Daei, Karim Bagheri, Majid Namjo Motlach.

Oct 16 = High Point, N Carolina — intl
UNITED STATES 1 (Perez 26)
UKRAINE 2 (Leonenko 41, 43)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 4,298.
US: Meola — Armstrong, Lapper, Caligiuri, Clavijo, Dooley, Quinn, Michallik, Kinnear (Washington 62), Perez (Chung 46), Vermes.
Ukraine: Koutepov (Bolkel 75) — Homin, Vasilichuk, Leyentsev, Popov, Sak, Shkapenko, Yabchenko, Litovchenko (Prudius 46), Khusainov (Rebrov 46), Leonenko.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

Oct 17 = Tunis — intl
TUNISIA 3 (El Okbi 7, 60, Ben Tahar 86)
ICELAND 1 (Brousson 28)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Sendid (Alg)
Tunisia: El Ouaer — Thabet, Nouira, Mahjoubi, Okbi — Gharbi (Sdri 85), Boukadida, Chihi (Medjoub 65), Maalaoui — Hamrouni (Ben Tahar 65), A Sellimi.
Iceland: Fridriksson (Finn Bogas 57) — Martinsson, Gislasson (Kristiansson 59), Bergsson, Dervir — Gretarsson, Jonsson, Petersson, Kristinsson (Danielsson 87) — Gollsson (Gudlaugsson 46), Gretarsson (Sigurvinsson 87).

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

Oct 18 = Doha, Qatar — WC Asian final rnd
SAUDI ARABIA 2 (Fahad Mehalel 55, Khalid Al Muwallid 74)
NORTH KOREA 1 (Ryu Song-gun 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom)
S Arabia: Mohammad al-Deayea — Abdullah al-Dorasi, Mohammad al-Khlawi, Ahmed Madani, Faud Amin, Mansour al-Muainea, Saeed Owairan, Mohammad al-Jawad, Khalid al-Muwallid (Hamzah Saleh) Khalid Altemawi (Fahad Mehalel 46), Hamzah Falatah.
N Korea: Kim Yangho — Kim Gwang Min, Kim Gyongil, Ryu Songgun, Kim Jongman (Ri Won Chil 76) Yun Jong Su, Choe Wonnam, Tak Yongbin, Cho Inchol, Choe Yongson, Pang Gwangchol.

Oct 18 = Doha, Qatar — WC Asian final rnd
JAPAN 1 (Nakayama 89)
IRAN 2 (Reza Hassan Zedah 45, Ali Daai 86)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Baldas (Ita)
Japan: Matsunaga — Horiike, Hashiratani, Ihara, Fukuda, Yoshida (Hasegawa 46), Moriyasu, Ruy Ramos, Yasutoshi Miura (Nakayama 74), Kazuyoshi Miura, Takagi.
Iran: Behzad Gholampour — Javad Zarinecheh, Mohammad Rezai Manesh, Reza Hassan Zadeh, Nader Mohammad Khani, Mehdi Fononi Zadegan, Hamid Estili (Ardeshir Ghalenoei 10), Majid Namjou Motlach, Behzad Dadashzadeh, Mehdi Abtahi (Hamid Derakhshan 60), Ali Daai.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Oct 19 = Doha, Qatar — WC Asian final rnd
IRAQ 2 (Laith Hussein Shihaib 32, Habib Jafar Agal 86)
SOUTH KOREA 2 (Kim Pan-keun 40, Hong Myung-bo 67pen)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fra)
Iraq: Emaad Hassan — Samir Hasan, Rhadi Shnaishel Swadi, Abidal Hanoon, Habib Jafir Agal, Naeim Menshed, Ahmad Radhi Amish, Selim Kadhim, Laith Hussein Shihaib, Saad Numan (Munther Mussin 75), Alaa Jebur (Bassam Hameed 44).
S Korea: Choi In-young — Chung Jong-sun, Kim Pan-keun, Park Jung-bae, Gu Sang-bum, Hong Myung-bo, Shin Hong-gi, Choi Moon-sik (Ha Seok-ju 70), Seo Jong-won (Noh Jung-yoon 38), Kim Joo-sung, Hwang Sun-hong.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

Oct 21 = Doha — WC Asian final rnd
NORTH KOREA 0
JAPAN 3 (Miura 29, 70, Najakama 52)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Muhmenthaler (Swi)
N Korea: Kim Yong-ho — Kim Gyong-il, Tak Yong-bin, Pang Gwang-chol — Kim Gwang-min, Cho In-chol, Gong Mun-chol, Ryu Song-gun, Yun Song-su — Choe Yong-son, Choe Won-nam.
Japan: Matsunaga — Horiike, Hashiratani, Ihara, Katsuya — Yoshida, Ruy Ramos, Moriyasu — Hasegawa (Kitazawa 85), Nakayama, K Miura.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

Oct 22 = Doha — WC Asian final rnd
SOUTH KOREA 1 (Shin Hong-gi 60)
SAUDI ARABIA 1 (Ahmed Madani 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Uilenberg (Hol)
S Korea: Choi In-young — Chung Jong-son, Hong Myung-bo, Park Jung-bae, Gu Sang-bum — Kim Pan-keun (Noh Jung-yoon 41), Choi Moon-sik (Ha Seok-ju 70), Shun, Hong-gi — Kim Joo-sung, Hwang Sun-hong, Ko Yeung-woon.
S Arabia: Mohammed Aldeayea — Abdullah Aldosari, Ahmed Madani, Fuad Amin, Mohammed Al Khlawi, Mohamed Al Jawad — Mansour Al Muainea (Khalid Al Temawi 67), Saeed Owairan, Khalid Al Muwallid — Hamzah Falatah, Fahad Mehalel (Sami Al Jaber 65).

Oct 22 = Doha — WC Asian final rnd
IRAN 1 (Ali Daai 21)
IRAQ 2 (Ahmad Radhi Amish 20, Alaa Jebur 38)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom)
Iran: Behzad Gholampour — Javad Zarinecheh, Nader Mohammad Khani, Reza Hassan Zadeh, Mohammad Reza Rezai Manesh — Majid Namjou Motlac (Mohammad Khakpour 46), Ardeshir Ghalenoi, Hamid Derakhshan, Behzad Dadashzadeh — Asghar Modir Rosta (Ebrahim Tahami 69), Ali Daai.
Iraq: Ibrahim Saad — Selim Hussain Kadhim, Samir Hasan, Radhi Shnaishel Ewadi, Saad Benyamin — Habib Jafar Agal, Naeim Menshed, Laith Hussein Shihalb (Munther Muhsin 70), Saad Numan — Alaa Jebur (Bassam Hameed 85), Ahmad Radhi Amish.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

Oct 23 = Bethlehem, Pa — intl friendly
UNITED STATES 0
UKRAINE 1 (Popov 36)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,896. **Ref:** D'Aquila (US)
US: Friedel — Armstrong, Lapper, Agoos, Lalas, Dooley, Santel (Washington 46), Sorber, Moore, Perez (Chung 74), Jones.
Ukraine: Kutepov — Sak, Khomin, Leyentseu (Bukel 46), Popov, Prudius (Yabchenko 46), Shkapenko, Topchiev, Rebrov (Prizetko 70), Leonenko, Litovchenko (Vasilicholk 88).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

Oct 24 = Doha — WC Asian final rnd
IRAQ 1 (Ahmad Radhi Amish 1)
SAUDI ARABIA 1 (Saeed Owairan 36)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fra)
Iraq: Ibrahim Saad — Saad Benyamin, Naeim Menshed (Ahmad Karim 52), Abidal Hanoon, Bassam Hameed, Mohammed Jaboar (Munther Muhsin 75), Ahmad Amish, Alaa Jebur, Saad Numan, Salim Kadhim, Laith Shihaib.
S Arabia: Mohammed Al Deayea (Hussein Alsadig 69) — Abdullah Al Dosari, Mohammed Al Khlawi, Ahmed Madani, Faud Amin, Mansour Al Muainea, Fahad Mehalel (Sami Al Jaber 46), Saeed Owairan, Mohamed Al Jawad, Khalid Al Muwallid, Hamzah Falatah.

Oct 24 = Libreville, Gabon — African Nations qual play-off
GUINEA 0
BURUNDI 0
Att: 15,000.
Guinea won 5-4 on pens, aet

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

Oct 25 = Doha — WC Asian final rnd
IRAN 2 (Ali Daai 50, 65)
NORTH KOREA 1 (Choe Won-nam 21)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Baldas (Ita)
N Korea: Kim Yong-ho — Chong Gang-song (Ri Won-chil 80), Kim Gyong-il, Yun Jong-su (Pak Myong-hu 71), Ryu Song-gun, Gong Mun-chol, Choe Won-nam, Tak Yong-bin, Cho In-chol, Choe Yong-son, Pang Gwang-chol.
Iran: Behzad Gholampour — Reza Zadeh, Mehdi Abtahi, Nader Khani, Moham med Manesh, Ashgar Rosta, Ardeshir Ghalonenoei, Ali Daai, Javad Manafi, Ebrahim Tahami (Samad Abdol 70), Behzad Dadashzadeh (Majid Motlach 30).

Oct 25 = Doha — WC Asian final rnd
JAPAN 1 (K Miura 60)
SOUTH KOREA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (Ger)
Japan: Matsunaga — Horiike, Katsuya, Ihara, Hashiratani, Hasegawa (Fukada 66), Kitazawa, Yoshida, Ruy Ramos, Kazuyoshi Miura, Nakayama (Takeda 85).
S Korea: Choi In-young — Chung Jong-son, Noh Jung-won (Seo Jung-won 46), Park Jung-bae, Ko Jeong-woon, Shin Hong-gi, Choi Moon-sook, Kim Joo-sung (Kim Jeong-hyeok 65), Gu Sang-bum, Ha Seok-ju, Hong Myung-bo.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

Oct 26 = Balzers — friendly intl
LIECHTENSTEIN 0
ESTONIA 2 (Bragin 56, Rajala 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,200. **Ref:** Grabher (Aus)
Liechtenstein: Oehry — Moser, Telser, Christoph Frick — Stocker, Quaderer (Klaunzer 66), Ospelt, Ritter, Hefti — Mario Frick, Zech (Beck 21; Hasler 66).
Estonia: Poom — Kaljend — Lemsalu (Bragin 46), Prins, Risto Kalleste — Borrisow, Olumets (Ratnikov 74), Toomas Kallaste, Klavan (Zamorski 46) — Reim, Rajala.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

Oct 27 = Istanbul — WC Euro gp 2
TURKEY 2 (Sukur 53, Bulent 67)
POLAND 1 (Kowalczyk 17)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Wieser (Aus)
Turkey: Engin — Recep, Bulent, Gokhan, Emre, Tugay, Abdullah Ercan (Mehmet Ozdilek 86), Bulent, Hakan,

Oguz, Orhan (Ertugrul 80).
Poland: Matysek — Lewandovski, Michalski, Kruszankin, Waldoch, Jalocha, Leszek Pisz, Adamczuk, Staniek, Kowalczyk (Ziober 60), Juskowiak.

Oct 27 = Kosice — WC Euro gp 4
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3 (Dubovsky 10, Hapal 22, Skuhravy 76)
CYPRUS 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 16,602. **Ref:** Spassov (Bul)
Czechoslovakia: Ladislav Molnar — Hasek, Smicer (Timko 73), Suchoparek, Kadlec, Nemecek, Hapal, Dubovsky, Kuka (Postulka 80), Skuhravy, Moravciik.
Cyprus: Petrides — Costas Constantinou, George Constantinou, *Kleanthous, Panayiu, Andreou (Kalotheo 69), **Larkou, Hatzilukas, Sotiriu, Papavasiliu, Xiuruppas (Stefani 62).
** Klenathous sent off, 65min*
*** Larkou sent off, 88min.*

Oct 27 = Budapest — WC Euro gp 5
HUNGARY 1 (Detari 20)
LUXEMBOURG 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Ogun Sarvan (Tur)
Hungary: Vegh — Banfi, Mracsko, Kuttor, Bordas, Csertoei, Detari, Lipcsei, Fule (Orosz 46), Klausz, Vincze (Puglits 40).
Luxembourg: Koch — Bossi, Petry, Wolff, Birsens, Fanello (Morocutti 70), Hellers, Strasser, Saibene, Groff (Malget 75), Langers.

Oct 27 = Tel Aviv — WC Euro gp 6
ISRAEL 1 (Rosenthal 3)
AUSTRIA 1 (Reinmayr 15)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 23,500. **Ref:** Vagner (Hun)
Israel: Ginzburg — Halfon, Klinger, A GArazi, Glam, Hazan, Levy, Berkovich (Schwartz 78), Atar (Ohana 65), R Harazi, Rosenthal.
Austria: Wohlfahrt — Streiter, Kogler, Pfeffer, Winkelhofer, Stoger, Artner, Reinmayr, Feiersinger, A Ogris, Polster (Pfeifenberger 65).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

Oct 28 = Doha/Al Ahli — WC Asian final rnd
JAPAN 2 (Miura 6, Nakayama 70)
IRAQ 2 (Ahmad Radhi 55, Jaffar Omran 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Muhmenthaler (Swi)
Iraq: Ibrahim Saad — Samir Hasan, Saad Benyamin, Selim Hussain Kadhim, Laith Hussain Shihaib, Munther Muhsin, Bassam Hameed (Abidal Hanoon 71), Mohammed Jaboar (Jaffar Omran 46), Radhi Shniashel Swadi, Ahmad Radhi Amish, Alaa Jebur.
Japan: Matsunaga — Katsuya, Horiike, Hashiratani, Ihara, Ruy Ramos, Hasegawa (Fukuda 60), Yoshida, Moriyasu, K Miura, Nakayama (Takeda 81).

Oct 28 = Doha/Khalifa — WC Asian final rnd
SAUDI ARABIA 4 (Sami Al Jaber 21, Fahad Mehalel 27, Mansour Al Mosa 46, Hamzah Falatah 64)
IRAN 3 (Mehdi Zadegan 43, 52, Javad Manafi 90)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Uilenberg (Hol)
S Arabia: Mohammed Al Deayea — Abdullah Al Dosari, Mohammed Al Khlawi, Ahmed Madani, Fuad Amin, Mohammed Al Jawad, Mansour Al Muainea (Mansour Al Mosa 46), Khalid Muwallid, Fahad Mehalel, Sami al Jaber, Hamzah Falatah.
Iran: Behzad Gholampour — Javad Zarinecheh (Javad Manafi 25), Mohammad Rezai Mahesh, Reza Hassan Zadeh, Nader Mohammad Khani, Mehdi Fononi Zadegan, Hamid Derakhshan, Mehdi Abtahi, Ardeshir Ghalenoei, Behzad Dadashzadeh (Ebrahim Tahami 52), Ali Daai.

Oct 28 = Doha/Qatari Club — WC Asian final rnd
SOUTH KOREA 3 (Ko Jeong-woon 49, Hwang Sun-hong 54, Ha Seok-ju 76)
NORTH KOREA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom)
S Korea: Choi In-young — Park Jung-bae, Gu Sang-bum, Hong Myung- bo, Kim Pan-keun, Shin Hong-gi, Choi Moon-sik, Kim Hyun-seok (Ha Seok-ju 55), Seo Jung-won, Ko Jeong-won, Hwang Sun-hong.
N Korea: Kim Yong-ho — Kim Gyong-il, Im Ilwa-hong, Ryu Song-gun, Tak Yong-bin, Choe Yong-son, Pang Gwang-choi, Chong Gang-song, Choe Won-nam, Cho In-chol, Gong Mun-chol.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

Oct 31 = Sydney — WC Oceania/ South America play-off, 1st leg
AUSTRALIA 1 (Aurelio Vidmar 42)
ARGENTINA 1 (Balbo 37)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 43,967. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)
Australia: Bosnich — Tony Vidmar (Mitchell 72), Tobin, Zelic, Van Blerk, Durakovic, Ivanovic, Wade, Slater, Aurelio Vidmar, Arnold.
Argentina: Goycochea — Chamot, Jorge Borelli, Vazquez, MacAllister, Perez, Redondo, Jose Basualdo (Zapata 70), Maradona, Balbo (Careres 88), Batistuta.

OTHER MATCHES

***Oct 5** (Augsburg):* **Germany 0, Bundesliga Imports XI 2** (Chapuisat 48pen, 73)
***Oct 6** (Tunis):* **Tunisia 1** (Adel Selimi 70), **Antwerp 0**
***Oct 8** (Jericho):* **Palestine XI 1** (Mahmoud Jarad 65), **Varietes Club de France 0**

EUROPEAN CUPS

CHAMPIONS CUP
2nd round, 1st leg
(October 20 unless stated)
BARCELONA 3 (Koeman 37pen, 68, Quique Estebaranz 89)
FK AUSTRIA 0. **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 87,600

FC COPENHAGEN 0
MILAN 6 (Papin 1, 71, Simone 5, 14, B Laudrup 43, Orlando 60). **HT:** 0-3. **Att:** 34,285.

LECH POZNAN 1 (Podbrozny 44)
MOSCOW SPARTAK 5 (Pisarev 8, 62, Karpin 10, Onopko 30, 53). **HT:** 1-3. **Att:** 8,762

LEVSKI SOFIA 2 (Yankov 75, Ginchev 90)
WERDER BREMEN 2 (Bode 50, Rufer 52). **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 46,500

MANCHESTER UNITED 3 (Robson 3, Hakan og 13, Cantona 81)
GALATASARAY 3 (Arif 16, Kubilay 31, 63). **HT:** 2-2. **Att:** 39,396. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den)

MONACO 4 (Ikpeba 50, 75, Klinsmann 52, 64)
STEAUA BUCHAREST 1 (Dumitrescu 22pen). **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 11,000

FC PORTO 1 (Domingos Oliveira 90)
FEYENOORD 0. **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 40,000

SPARTA PRAGUE 0
ANDERLECHT 1 (Nilis 74). **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 25,621.

CUP-WINNERS CUP
2nd round, 1st leg
(October 20 unless stated)
AJAX AMSTERDAM 2 (Rijkaard 60, R De Boer 81)
BESIKTAS 1 (Mehmet Ozdilek 41). **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 42,000.

ARSENAL 3 (Wright 39, 63, Merson 50)
STANDARD LIEGE 0. **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 25,258.

BENFICA 3 (Babunski og 26, Rui Costa 37, Schwarz 90)
CSKA SOFIA 1 (Andonov 60). **HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 40,000.

INNSBRUCK 1 (Streiter 69pen)
REAL MADRID 1 (Alfonso 15). **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 10,000

MACCABI HAIFA 0
PARMA 1 (Brolin 90). **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 13,000

PANATHINAIKOS 1 (K Warzycha 44)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 4 (Paulo Sergio 42, Thom 52, Kirsten 59, Hapal 72). **HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 60,000

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 4 (Guerin 12, Ginola 17pen, Bita og 58, Valdo 71)
UNIVERSITATEA CRAIOVA 0. **HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 20,000.

TORINO 3 (Sergio 45, Fortunato 51, Aguilera 88)
ABERDEEN 2 (Paatelainen 9, Jess 24). **HT:** 1-2. **Att:** 25,000.

UEFA CUP
2nd round, 1st leg
(October 20 unless stated)
BRANIK MARIBOR 0
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0. **Att:** 14,000.

CELTIC 1 (Creaney 9)
SPORTING LISBON 0. **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 31,321.

INTERNAZIONALE 1 (Bergkamp 6)
APOLLON LIMASSOL 0. **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 15,000

KONGSVINGER 1 (Frigaard 89)

JUVENTUS 1 (Kohler 61). **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,213

LAZIO 1 (Winter 74)
BOAVISTA 0. **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 40,000

MECHELEN 5 (Eszenyi 44, 80, 83, De Boeck 59, Leen 72)
MTK BUDAPEST 0. **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 7,000

TRABZONSPOR 1 (Orhan Cikrikci 27)
CAGLIARI 1 (Dely Valdes 89). **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 21,500 *(played Oct 19)*

VALENCIA 3 (Mijatovic 35, Penev 47, 74)
KARLSRUHE 1 (Schmitt 79). **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 42,900.

ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Luis Garcia 58)
OFI CRETE 0. **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 11,600 *(played Oct 19)*

AUSTRIA SALZBURG 1 (Jurcevic 67)
ANTWERP 0. **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 11,000 *(played Oct 19)*

BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Nerlinger 41)
NORWICH 2 (Goss 13, Bowen 30). **HT:** 1-2. **Att:** 28,500 *(played Oct 19)*

BORDEAUX 2 (Paille 35, Vercruysse 56)
SERVETTE 1 (Anderson Da Silva 55). **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 15,000 *(played Oct 19)*

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Furtok 65, Okocha 77)
DNEPR DNEPROPETROVK 0. **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 6,900 *(played Oct 19)*

KUUSYSI LAHTI 1 (Ismo Lius 13)
BRONDBY 4 (Okechukwu 1, Vilfort 59, Strudal 64, 84). **HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 5,000 *(played Oct 19)*

LA CORUNA 1 (Riesco 87)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Saunders 80). **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 26,800 *(played Oct 19)*

TENERIFE 2 (Julio Llorente 38, Del Solar 49)
OLYMPIAKOS 1 (Christensen 10). **HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 20,000 *(played Oct 21)*

CHAMPIONS CUP
2nd round, 2nd leg
ANDERLECHT 4 (Bosman 2, Nilis 47, 71, Versavel 89)
SPARTA PRAGUE 2 (Dvirnik 18, Vonasek 60). **HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 19,000
Anderlecht 5-2 on agg

FEYENOORD 0
FC PORTO 0. **Att:** 43,000
Porto 1-0 on agg

FK AUSTRIA 1 (Ogris 39)
BARCELONA 2 (Stoichkov 6, 78). **HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 22,500
Barcelona 5-1 on agg

MILAN 1 (Papin 45)
FC COPENHAGEN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,786
Milan 7-0 on agg

MOSCOW SPARTAK 2 (Karpin 6, Khlestov 81)
LECH POZNAN 1 (Dembilski 28). **HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 10,000
Spartak 7-2 on agg

STEAUA BUCHAREST 1 (Dumitrescu 84)
MONACO 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,000.
Monaco 4-2 on agg

WERDER BREMEN 1 (Basler 75)
LEVSKI SOFIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,000
Bremen 3-2 on agg

GALATASARAY 0
MANCHESTER UNITED 0. **Att:** 35,000.
Agg 3-3, Galatasaray on away goals

CUP-WINNERS CUP
2nd rnd, 2nd leg
ABERDEEN 1 (Richardson 12)
TORINO 2 (Carbone 39, Silenzi 53). **HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 21,655.
Torino 5-3 on agg

CSKA SOFIA 1 (Andonov 56)
BENFICA 3 (Costa 37, Joao Pinto 73, Yuran 89). **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 25,000
Benfica 6-2 on agg

PARMA 0
MACCABI HAIFA 1 (Mizrahi 51). **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 9,312
Parma 3-1 on pens: agg 1-1 aet

REAL MADRID 3 (Michel 6, Butragueno 46, Alfonso 65)
INNSBRUCK 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 19,300.
Real Madrid 4-1 on agg

UNIVERSITATEA CRAIOVA 0
PARIS SG 2 (Guerin 29, 48). **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 20,000
Paris SG 6-0 on agg

STANDARD LIEGE 0
ARSENAL 7 (Smith 2, Selley 20, Adams 36, Campbell 41, 80, Merson 72, McGoldrick 82). **HT:** 0-4. **Att:** 12,000.
Arsenal 10-0 on agg

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 (Kirsten 83)

PANATHINAIKOS 2 (Saravakos 6pen, Georgiadis 66). **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 15,000 (Nov 2)
Leverkusen 5-3 on agg

BESIKTAS 0
AJAX AMSTERDAM 4 (Litmanen 19, 71, 74, Pettersson 77). **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 27,000 *(Nov 2)*.
Ajax 6-1 on agg

UEFA CUP
2nd rnd, 2nd leg
ANTWERP 0
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 1 (Feiersinger 84). **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 7,7500 *(Nov 2)*
Austria Salzburg 2-0 on agg

JUVENTUS 2 (Moeller 27, Ravanelli 68)
KONGSVINGER 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,000 *(Nov 2)*
Juventus 3-1 on agg

KARLSRUHE 7 (Schmitt 29, 34, 59, 63, Schutterle 37, Schmarov 46, Bilic 90)
VALENCIA 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 25,000 *(Nov 2)*
Karlsruhe 8-3 on agg

MTK BUDAPEST 1 (Kovacs 59)
MECHELEN 1 (Carlos Pereira 10). **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 1,500 *(Nov 2)*
Mechelen 6-1 on agg

OFI CRETE 2 (Mahlas 51, Tsifoutis 64)
ATLETICO MADRID 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,000 *(Nov 2)*
OFI 2-1 on agg

APOLLON LIMASSOL 3 (Spoljiarec 11, Cepovic 32, Iosephides 85)
INTERNAZIONALE 3 (Shalimov 6, Bergkamp 8, Fontolan 38). **HT:** 2-3. **Att:** 12,000
Inter 4-3 on agg

ASTON VILLA 0
LA CORUNA 1 (Manjarin 36). **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 26,737
La Coruna win 2-1 on agg

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Chapuisat 48, 52)
MARIBOR 1 (Bozgo 21). **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 25,000
Dortmund 2-1 on agg

BRONDBY 3 (Kristensen 39, Madsen 68, Hoegh 85pen)
KUUSYSI LAHTI 1 (Annunen 6). **HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 5,834
Brondby 7-2 on agg

CAGLIARI 0
TRABZONSPOR 0. **Att:** 30,000
Agg 1-1, Cagliari on away goals

DNEPR DNEPROPETROVSK 1 (Chukhliba 43)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0. **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 25,000
Eintracht 2-1 on agg

NORWICH 1 (Goss 50)
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Valencia 4). **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 20,829.
Norwich 3-2 on agg

SERVETTE 0
BORDEAUX 1 (Schepul og 66). **HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 18,000
Bordeaux 3-1 on agg

SPORTING LISBON 2 (Cadete 18, 60)
CELTIC 0
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 62,500
Sporting 2-1 on agg

BOAVISTA 2 (Owubokiri 20, 52)
LAZIO 0. **HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 10,000.
Boavista 2-1 on agg (played November 4)

OLYMPIAKOS 4 (Christensen 13, 34, 84, Ioannides 58)
TENERIFE 3 (Minambres 23, Chano 49 pen, Amanatides 68 og). **HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 28,000.
Agg 5-5, Tenerife on away goals. (played November 4)

SOUTH AMERICA

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPER CUP
(for Libertadores Cup winners)
1st round — 1st leg

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 2 (Medina Bello, Silvani)
ARGENTINOS JUNIORS (Arg) 1 (Cedre)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Juan C. Biscay (Arg).
River Plate: Goycochea, H. Diaz, Gamboa, Corti, Rivarola, Toresani, Astrada (Villarreal), Rojas, Ortega, Medina Bello, Silvani.
Argentinos Juniors: Cousillas, Germano, Bustos, Traverso, Taricco, Faciutto, Gancedo, Dollberg (Gomez Pereyra), Paz, Cedres, Blanco.
● River Plate were well on top at the start, but then complicated their own play and the more practical Argentinos led 1-0 at the break. Argentinos also dominated most of the second half and River Plate only gained the upper hand in the last 15 minutes to score two quick goals and take a slender 1-0 margin into the away leg.

CONMEBOL CUP
Semi-finals — 1st leg
Sep 8: Atletico Mineiro (Bra) 3 Botafogo (Bra) 1
Sep 9: San Lorenzo (Arg) 0 Penarol (Uru) 1
Semi-finals — 2nd leg
Sep 15: Penarol (Uru) 1 San Lorenzo (Arg) 2 *(Agg: 2-2, Penarol won 4-2 on pens)*, Botafogo (Bra) 3 Atletico Mineiro (Bra) 0 *(Agg: 4-3)*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Final — 1st leg
In Montevideo, Uruguay.
PENAROL (Uru) 1 (Otero)
BOTAFOGO (Bra) 1 (Perivaldo)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Par).
Penarol: Rabajda, Tais, Gutierrez, De los Santos, G. Da Silva, Reherman, Perdomo (Conzani), Baltierra, Bengoechea (Ferreira), Rodriguez, Otero.
Botafogo: William, Eliomar, Andre, Rogerio, Clei, China, Fabiano, Perivaldo, Alessio (Marco Paulo), Sinval, Eliel.
● Penarol pressed more in a technically poor game after they fell behind in the fifth minute, but they missed their playmaker, Bengoechea, who had to go off injured after 25 minutes.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Final — 2nd leg
In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
BOTAFOGO (Bra) 2 (Eliel, Sinval)
PENAROL (Uru) 2 (Perdomo, Otero)
Agg: 3-3, Botafogo won 3-1 on pens.
Botafogo: William, Perivaldo, Andre, Claudio, Clei (Eliomar), Nelson, Suelo, Alesio, (Marcos Paulo), Marcelo, Sinval, Eliel.
Penarol: Rabadja, Tais, Gutierrez, De los Santos, Da Silva, Dorta, Perdomo, Batlierra, Bengoechea (Rehnermann), Otero, Rodriguez.
● It was an exciting match until the end, in which Otero equalized for Penarol with practically the last shot of the game to force a penalty shoot-out. Botafogo pressed from the start, but Penarol defended well and took the lead after 37 minutes making good use of a defensive mistake. With an extra attacker in the second half, Botafogo were more dangerous and almost won the game. In the shoot-out, Suelo, Perivaldo and Andre netted for Botafogo and only Da Silva for Penarol.

CONCACAF CUP
(North, Central & Caribbean Club Championship)

Semi-finals — 1st leg
Sep 6: MOTAGUA (Hon) 0 MUNICIPAL (Guat) 1.
Sep 19: ALAJUELENSE (CR) 0 LEON (Mex) 0.
Sep 26: SAPRISSA (CR) 2 LUIS ANGEL FIRPO (ES) 0.

Semi-finals — 2nd leg
Sep 19: MUNICIPAL 1 MOTAGUA 0
Municipal won 2-0 on agg.
Sept 22: LEON 2 ALAJUELENSE 1
Leon won 2-1 on agg.

RECOPA
(between winner of Libertadores and Super Cups)

1st leg — September 22
SAO PAULO (Bra) 0
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
● This was a Brazilian national championship fixture which these clubs decided to count as the first leg of this cup due to fixture congestion.

2nd leg — September 29
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
SAO PAULO (Bra) 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Jorge Nieves (Uru).
Agg: 0-0, Sao Paulo won 4-2 on pens.
Cruzeiro: Sergio, Paulo Roberto, Robson, Luisinho (Celio Lucio), Nonato, Ademir, Rogerio Lage, Biadero, Luiz Fernando, Macedo (Careca), Ronaldo.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Gilmar, Valber, Ronaldo, Andre, Dinho, Cerezo, Palhinha (Cate), Cafu, Juninho, Valdeir (Janelli).
● With several first teamers injured, Sao Paulo were on the defensive for most of the game, but held out to win yet another trophy in a penalty shoot-out with goals from Dinho, Cafu, Valber and Ronaldo while Luiz Fernando and Ademir scored for Cruzeiro but Paulo Roberto and Ronaldo shot wide.

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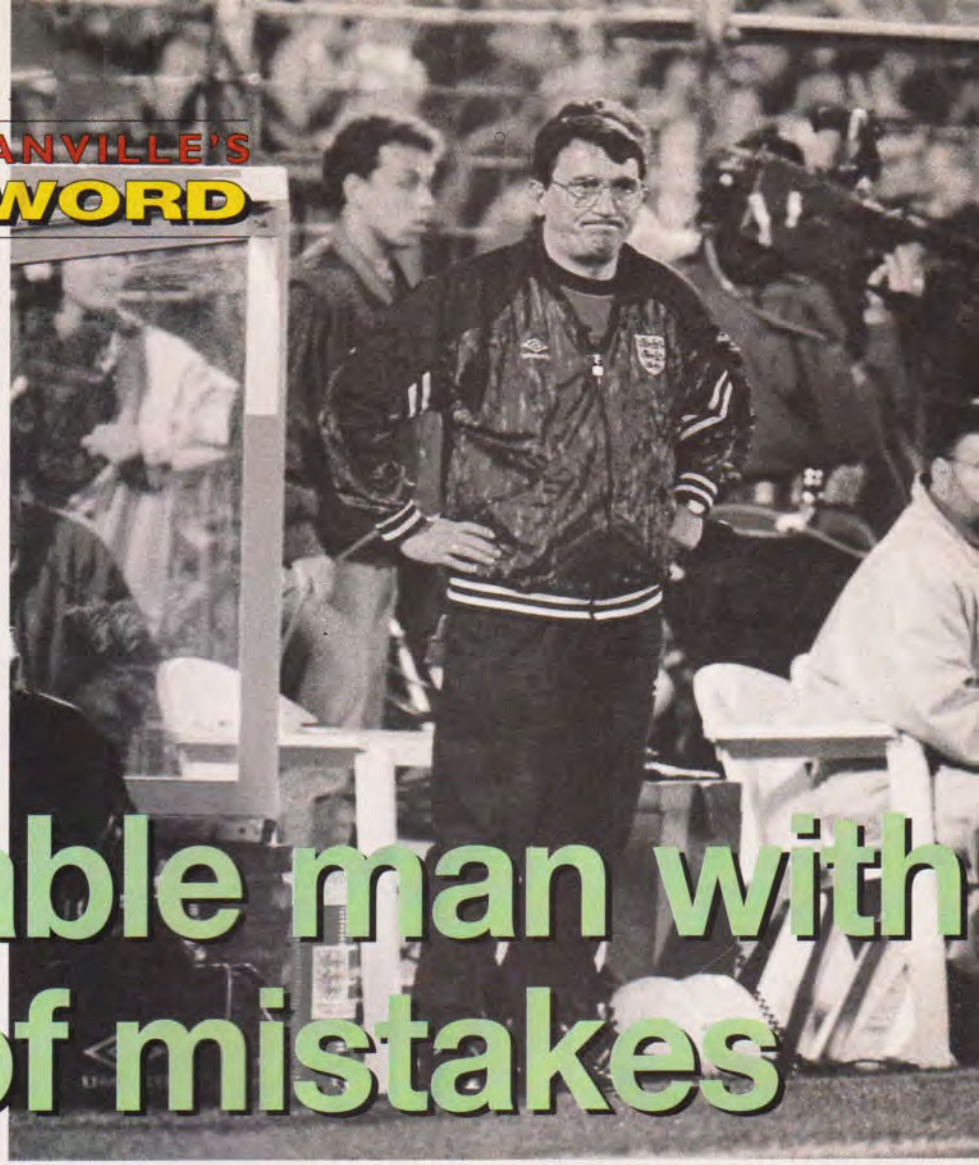
BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

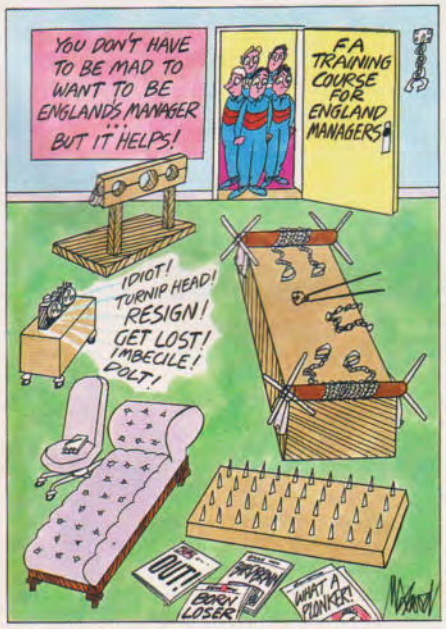


A likeable man with a list of mistakes

AT THE press conference the day after England lost in Rotterdam, Graham Taylor quoted Napoleon who, whenever he had to appoint a new marshal, asked simply, "Is he lucky?" Something I, in relation to Taylor, have been quoting for some time.

It would have been more germane for Taylor to have quoted the kings who replaced Napoleon, the Bourbons, of whom it was said they learned nothing and they forgot nothing.

Perhaps one of the few positive things which can be said of Taylor's uneasy stewardship was that at least the elephantine time lag between offence and outburst seems to have lessened remarkably.



At that same conference, Taylor rebutted suggestions that the "dignity" with which he wanted to go out had been tarnished by his outburst in Rotterdam.

When Rob Shepherd of *Today* suggested that Taylor's strange selection had shades of Norway about it, he was met by an outburst of bitter affront. That, said Taylor, back in London, was just "passion." You could have fooled me. But we all have our own private definition of passion.

Not least Taylor's sidekick, Lawrie McMenemy, who astounded us when he said on TV that while a manager can infuse his team with "passion," there is nothing he can do once they are on the field. Which may well tell you something about McMenemy, but would surely astound the likes of Vittorio Pozzo, Herbert Chapman, Helenio Herrera and Sepp Herberger.

What on earth is the use of a manager whose imbued "passion" has leaked out and away by the time his teams are out of the tunnel?

"I've had my run-ins with Brian", Taylor said later to reporters, "but it didn't go on."

It did and it didn't. Without wishing to weary readers it was a mild criticism in a *WORLD SOCCER* article published THREE AND A HALF YEARS EARLIER which prompted Graham to assail me at QPR: "You're a liar, you write lies; you're a liar, you write lies!"

A violent altercation followed while I tried to remember what he was talking about. Some years later, in the Millwall Press box, he extended a hand, which he'd refused me at QPR, and said, "Shall we start again?" I was glad to.

I like the man, but didn't ever think he was managerial material at international level; which has nothing to do with the fact that he was a journeyman footballer. So what? We all know that Arrigo Sacchi wasn't even that, so useless that he was told: "You'll never be any good. Why don't you coach the youngsters?" He did, and we all know what happened.

Taylor's thick skin would not have mattered had he the tactical and technical ability to succeed at international level. Blame ultimately resides with the boneheads of the Senior International Committee, who first appointed him, then just wouldn't get rid of him in time.

Still, what could you expect from Peter Swales, the head of the committee, who unforgivably told us he was GLAD England didn't win the 1990 World Cup, because it would have meant Bobby Robson staying on.

That any Englishman with connections with football should be glad England didn't win a World Cup is lamentable enough. That it should be the chairman of the International Committee, such as it lamentably is, beggars belief. And Swales couldn't even remember that Robson was going anyway, to PSV, knowing that the FA were not going to renew his contract.

At that London Conference, Taylor called for a system in which the actual England team manager should, as in Germany, have a junior successor. Since then, Bert Millichip, whom God preserve, and Graham (50-elbows-a-match) Kelly have said the same thing, more or less.

They forgot that the Germans, with what seemed so immutable and intelligent a system, demanding that all managers worked their way up from the lower leagues, suddenly kicked it into touch by appointing Franz Beckenbauer, a national team manager who had never coached or managed at any level, but was there simply on the basis of his colossal playing prestige.

You could see this as a wanton betrayal of the system, or an inspired move which took Germany to two World Cup finals, narrowly losing the first,

in Mexico, but winning the second, in Rome. Then, as Taylor reminded us, there was Michel Platini, another manager called up in a crisis without previous experience. Taylor suggested that Gerard Houllier did the hard work, and it's true that Platini made a dog's dinner of the European Championship of 1992. But after a fashion, his management worked.

Since when Houllier, on his own, was doing well enough until Israel went to the Parc des Princes and beat France 3-2.

The ideal time to have given Taylor his cards was after the European Championship in Sweden, and the ludicrous, deplorable substitution of Gary Lineker, in his last game for England.

Failing that, Taylor should have been out on his ear after an incredibly lucky draw in Poland, humiliating defeat of a daft selection in Oslo, followed by still greater humiliation in Boston.

There is a long list of Taylor's blunders. For example, the persistence with Des Walker after his failings against Holland at Wembley showed how his pace and his confidence had gone. And the perverse choice of John Barnes, even in a front role, when his pace too had gone.

In Rotterdam, there was the idiocy of playing Carlton Palmer on the right wing; not even as a counterweight to Bergkamp, as had been expected when Taylor's strange team was announced. In Norway, there was the fatuity of rebuilding the whole strategy to counter the big striker Jostein Flo.In retrospect, you might almost say that Ronald Koeman did Taylor a good turn. That when he hauled back David Platt and was shown only a yellow card by an inept German referee, when he subsequently shot Holland's first goal, he was almost getting Taylor off the hook.

"We wuz robbed!" was the cry. Which was true; but not the whole truth. A good manager would have had England home and dry by Rotterdam, in a group without a single outstanding team.

So, who's next? My view is that no manager would have to be vastly preferable to a manager who made the errors Taylor did. After all, it was not till 1946 that England even had one. And Walter Winterbottom, the great theorist, the man who thought his job as FA Director of Coaching was more important than managing the England team, did not even officially pick the side.

Jackie Charlton applied for the job years ago, and did not even get the courtesy of an answer. I was not at all impressed by Charlton's selection and strategy in Dublin, when his team lost feebly to Spain, but I still think he would have taken England to the US in 1994.

Much is made of his basic, long-ball tactics. But I remember how his eyes shone, in Malmo, as we watched the French training, and he recounted a goal Paul Gascoigne had superbly scored as a teenager in a training game at Newcastle. Charlton said he'd never see one better.

Charlton, whose admiration for Gazza knows no bounds, would have built an England team around him. Taylor, at the beginning of his reign, dropped him in Dublin. Later, Taylor told us it was because of what he perceived as Gazza's psychological state at the time. But at the time, he was singing a different song, talking about Gazza's unsuitability for such a match on tactical grounds.

Hard not to feel that Taylor, ever the apostle of the long-ball game at Watford, never really responded to a maverick like Gascoigne.

Charlton sees international management for what it is: essentially a part-time job. You can if you wish be a Taylor or a Robson, follow Parkinson's Law, that work expands to fill the time allotted to it. You can even appoint a McMenemy. But in fact all an international manager really has to do is keep tabs on his players, keep tabs on his opponents, and motivate his side, if he can, when the matches come round. In the meantime, like Charlton, he is welcome to go shooting and fishing.

Too simple, Simon

I WROTE last month about smart alecs from outer space, so to speak, who descend on football, knowing nothing about it, and make fools of themselves.

Now, alas it's been done by Simon Jenkins, ex-editor of *The Times*, an elegant, incisive, original columnist on politics, English Heritage and many another subjects besides. But, when it comes to football, he is the equivalent of those people who, in the barbed Italian expression, claim to have invented hot water.

Soon after the Rotterdam affair, Jenkins was telling us we needed Bigger Goals. I assume a concerted groan will have gone up from all my readers or his.

One of the most interesting things Walter Winterbottom said to me, when I interviewed him at Lancaster Gate over 40 years ago, was that soccer as a sport was distinguished by the fact that goals were so relatively hard to score. Whereas in sports such as basketball, they were so easy.

"I am sure," writes Jenkins, in his innocence and ignorance, "one reason for the curse of crowd and player violence which has long been associated with soccer is frustration at the difficulty of scoring and with the resulting unfairness."

The mind boggles. Descend from your ivory tower, Mr Jenkins, and confront, do, the realities of life, and football. The fact, for a start, that by comparison with the vicious, endless brutalities of rugby, soccer as a sport is mild indeed.

The facts that football hooliganism largely takes place OUTSIDE the stadiums, and that the most unregenerate football thugs plan their violence, seldom bothering even to watch a game, are commonplace.

With the deepest respect, football does not need the uninformed amateur to tell it what to do. He merely runs the risk, learned, gifted and versatile though he be, of making an ass of himself. And inventing hot water.

Soccer shlock

IN AMERICA, for the umpteenth time, there is talk again of that mirage, that would-be squaring of the circle, a national professional league.

Of course it won't happen; not even after the coming World Cup, which is bound to be a great success and, whatever one or two of our sclerotic, uninformed, elder sports columnists may say, is very properly going to the United States.

There, it will meet a sophisticated audience of millions. Far too sophisticated, alas, to watch the kind of junk soccer being predicated by someone called Paglia, and by the amiable Hank Steinbrecher, of the US association. Both talk about a League in which each team will be able to field no more than a couple of foreign players and in which the salaries will be derisory.

Forget it, chaps, American football fans won't come to watch shlock soccer. Unless you give them the best, they'll simply stay away.

As for Steinbrecher's dotty promise that the League will be "aggressively experimental," that may please the ineffable, endlessly experimental Sepp Blatter, but it sure as hell won't butter no parsnips.

Experiment as much as you wish, Hank. You won't cut the mustard without the game's top players. Forget it.

A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of The Football Grounds of Great Britain and The Football Grounds of Europe

DALLAS

Name: The Cotton Bowl
Capacity: 66,000
Opened: 1932, expanded 1960
Location: in the centre of Dallas's 273-acre, almost Soviet-style Art Deco Fair Park, which has eight museums (one or two brilliant), a planetarium, aquarium and ferris wheel. So, if the football gets boring . . .

● Apart from two annual college gridiron showpieces, the Cotton Bowl has hardly been used since the NFL's Dallas Cowboys decamped in 1970, which explains why the stadium is so basic and requires $16 million-worth of renovation for the World Cup. Once modernised it should provide a formidable arena for football, being remarkably compact with only a yard or so of space between the perimeter and the touchlines (so who wants to see corners being taken anyway?). The artificial pitch was replaced by turf for the CONCACAF Gold Cup in July this year, when an average crowd of 14,190 watched seven games, including the USA's semi-final victory over Costa Rica (compared with an average of 73,000 who watched the other Gold Cup rounds in Mexico City).

Nevertheless, Dallas has a deserved reputation for its annual youth soccer tournament, and one of the World Cup sponsors, American Airlines, are based in the city. The World Cup's international broadcasting centre is also to be in Dallas, so there should be plenty of income to offset the costs of renovation, even if the stadium probably will lie idle again for most of the year, once the World Cup has moved on.

World Soccer rating: 6 (out of 10)

DENMARK

Name: Parken
Capacity: 42,000 all-seated
Opened: 1911 as the Idraetspark, completely revamped 1990-92
Location: part of once grand sport complex in Osterbro, 3km north of central Copenhagen

● A stadium fit for European Champions and one of Europe's most improved and comfortable venues. The pitch has been switched by 90 degrees and three excellent, two-tier stands built, with distinctive, black-column supported roofs. Viewing is superb (even the fences are low), though the surviving triple-tier former main stand (vintage 1955), now behind a goal, looks totally out of place. As with the Rasunda Stadium in Stockholm, Copenhagen's wonderful wonderful £46 million development was paid for by selling the site to a finance company, Baltica, who have rather spoilt a neat, modern stadium by building unnecessarily dull and distinctly incongruous office blocks in three corners.

World Soccer rating: 8 (out of 10)

DUBLIN

Name: Lansdowne Road
Capacity: 46,000 for rugby, 33,000 all-seated for football
Opened: 1878 for rugby
Location: in leafy Ballsbridge, one mile south-east from city centre and a few hundred yards from Dublin's seafront

● As in Wales, Ireland's soccer fortunes have been transformed since switching from decaying old Dalymount Park to the much smarter national rugby stadium, in Dublin's case the oldest rugby venue in the world and indeed the only one to have a railway line running under the main stand. The pitch may be bumpy, the floodlights non-existent and both ends uncovered, but to be sure the crack in this quirky, mis-shapen ground can't be beaten. The only drawback is that to comply with FIFA regulations for the World Cup, temporary seats have to be installed on each end terrace, reducing the capacity from its usual 46,000 for rugby to 33,000 for football. Although this is patently too small to cope with demand, the Irish Rugby Football Union remain reluctant to go for expansion as an all-seater (unlike Scottish and English rivals at Murrayfield and Twickenham). One future development could just change their minds. If grandiose plans for redeveloping Dublin's Croke Park — home of Gaelic Football and Hurling — ever materialise, and if the Gaelic officials ever allow soccer into their jealously guarded bastion (some would say as likely as a leprechaun playing in Jack Charlton's back four), the Football Association of Ireland may yet find themselves spoilt for choice.

World Soccer rating: 7 (out of 10)

DORTMUND

Name: Westfalenstadion
Capacity: 43,000 (25,000 seats)
Opened: 1974, for the World Cup
Location: Westfalenpark, a 70-hectare sports and leisure complex which includes Europe's largest indoor arena and an indoor athletics track. Borussia used to play in the Rote Erde ground next door to the Westfalenstadion.

● Often cited as the best football venue in Germany, although not the most beautiful, because of its British-style no-nonsense, four rectangular stands, each close to the pitch, and its British-style raucous, passionate fans. The addition of seats to the North Stand has reduced capacity from the original 53,970, but plans for 1994 include the addition of a second tier to the West Stand plus a glazed-in executive area (*a la* Anderlecht or PSV). When funds are available the East Stand will be similarly expanded. This would allow for an all-seated capacity of 47,000, for a club who averaged 40,000 last season. Yet Borussia say they are going to restore the North Stand to terracing, to create a total of 69,000, because that's what their fans want. With Germany bidding for the World Cup in 2006, we'll see.

World Soccer rating: 9 (out of 10)

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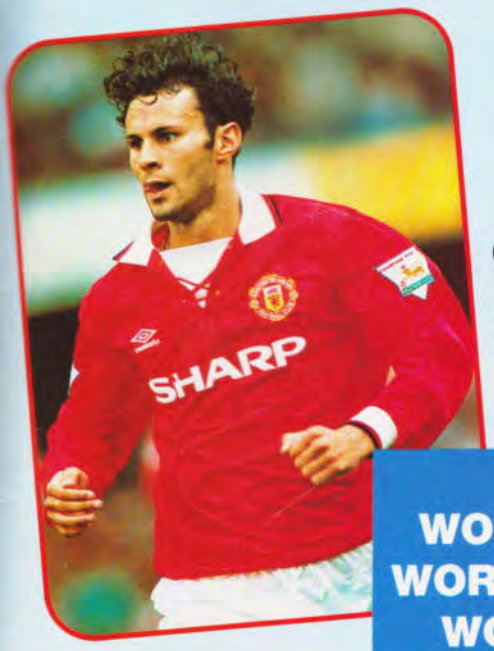

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